

News Review of Current Events the World Over

France and Belgium Default on War Debts—Great Britain and Four Other Nations Pay—Drys Argue Against Legalizing Beer.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

FRANCE, reputedly one of the richest nations in the world, has defaulted. For the first time in history it has broken its pledged word, refusing to pay the December war debt interest installment of \$19,261,432 due the United States. This action was taken by the chamber of deputies by a vote of 402 to 187, while the galleries roared the Nationalist and Royalist song "Not a sou to America." The powerful Socialist party deserted the government.

Premier Herriot had made a tremendous fight, the most brilliant in his career, and when his defeat was announced he and his ministers stalked out of the chamber. The deputies then took another vote on a motion to defer payment until such a time as an international debt conference can be held, and this was carried, 380 to 57. The Radical Socialists who had supported the premier's terms for payment had left the chamber before this vote was taken.

Herriot and his cabinet immediately submitted their resignations to President Lebrun and as is customary, were asked to carry on until a new government could be formed. Consequently it was necessary for Herriot to transmit to Washington the decision of the chamber.

FOLLOWING a rapid exchange between London and Washington, Great Britain fulfilled expectations by paying the \$95,550,000 in principal and interest due the United States on Thursday. Mac Donald's government had proposed that the payment should not be regarded as the regular semi-annual installment provided for in the debt agreement, but as a payment on capital to be taken into account in any future understanding. Secretary of State Stimson promptly replied declining to accept the payment if accompanied by conditions that would amount to repudiation of the debt funding pact. The British explained that they were merely setting forth their own position and reserving the right to recur to their arguments in the future examination of the whole question "to which the United States government has agreed."

The officials in Washington interpreted the last British note as one of "mental reservations" and decided they could accept the payment without committing the United States to any deviation from the terms of the debt settlement. So the incident was considered closed so far as Great Britain was concerned.

Belgium followed the example of France and defaulted. The cabinet council decided not to pay America the \$2,125,000 that was due Thursday, explaining that the Hoover moratorium and the Lausanne reparations agreement had deprived Belgium of substantial sums and that the debt funding agreement of 1925 was based on Belgium's capacity to pay. Then the cabinet resigned.

Italy, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and Latvia paid up on the debt. Hungary, Poland and Estonia did not pay. Poland has asked the United States to review the debt agreement on the ground that her interest on the debt is unfairly high when compared to that which Italy pays.

PRESIDENT-ELECT ROOSEVELT was aroused to wrath when the correspondent of the London Express sent a cablegram to his paper misrepresenting Mr. Roosevelt's views on the debt question. The dispatch said in part:

"Let me at once clear up any misunderstanding there is at home concerning what the new President is going to do about war debts. I gather from our conversation that on March 5 he is going to make a statement which I believe will bring some measure of relief to a doubting world."

"But although I have the best reasons for believing that the interest on the war debts may be waived, and perhaps some pretty hard conditions will be attached to cutting off the interest, there is no possible shadow of doubt that the capital, representing at

Roosevelt's own figure \$11,000,000,000, will have to be paid—every red cent of it."

Governor Roosevelt declared the story was made of whole cloth, that he had refused to give the correspondent a "Christmas message for the world" and had declined to discuss with him the debts or anything else. Lieut. Gov. H. H. Lehman, who was present when the Englishman saw the governor, asserted that nothing in any way justifying the cabled story had been said.

The President-Elect took occasion also to deny a report printed in a Sacramento newspaper that he would offer the portfolio of the interior to Senator Hiram W. Johnson.

REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS T. McFadden of Pennsylvania, who seems to dislike Mr. Hoover more than anyone else does, introduced a resolution seeking to impeach the President on the ground that he has failed to obey the mandate of congress against the cancellation of the war debts and has "endeavored to nullify the contracts existing between the United States and its debtors." In his talk the Pennsylvaniaian even hinted at possible bribery. A motion to lay the impeachment resolution on the table was opposed by only eight members, all Democrats except McFadden.

PREMIER HERRIOT of France having accepted the agreement reconciling the equality demands of Germany and the security requirements of France, the German government consented to return to the disarmament conference and hopes for the success of that conference were revived. France, Great Britain and Italy declared that one of the aims of the conference is to give equality of rights to Germany and her allied powers within a framework of security for all nations. Britain, France, Italy and Germany affirmed they would not resort to arms to settle disputes, and the same powers promised to co-operate in a sincere effort to bring about disarmament.

In Berlin this accord was considered a distinct victory for Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher and Foreign Minister Von Neurath.

REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL E. Garrett of Houston, Texas, died in his Washington apartment after an illness of several months. He was a Democrat of great influence in the party and in the house, had served sixteen years in congress and was re-elected in November.

EXCEPT for the war debts beer was the chief topic of interest in Washington. The houseways and means committee was conducting hearings on the legalizing measures, and it heard plenty in opposition from both men and women. The gentler sex came first and the things it said about beer were far from gentle. The women were led by Mrs. Henry W. Peabody of New York, general chairman of the women's national committee for law enforcement. They told the committee that beer was responsible for 90 per cent of pre-prohibition drunkenness, and asserted that modification of the Volstead act was the entering wedge for the return of the open saloon.

Then they warned that if Red revolution and riots followed the passage of beer legislation the responsibility would be laid at the committee's door.

Next day the dry men, marshaled by Dr. A. J. Barton, executive secretary of the Anti Saloon league, took the floor. They included Canon W. S. Chase, Deets Pickett, Bishop James Cannon, Jr., and others, and another woman, Mrs. Ella Boole, president of the National Women's Christian Temperance union, was with them to add her arguments. One of the witnesses produced by the drys was Dr. Walter R. Miles of Yale, who told of experiments he made with students tending to show that a 2.75 per cent alcoholic drink was intoxicating. He admitted the stuff he gave the boys was not real beer but a concoction of grape juice, sugar and alcohol.

Secretary of the Treasury Mills was summoned by the committee to give estimates of the amount of revenue

which would be derived from a tax of \$5 on each barrel of legalized beer.

Little affected by all the dry arguments it had heard, the committee went to work drafting the legalizing bill. The wets were confident they could put it through the house, but were not so sure they could muster a two-thirds vote to overcome a veto by President Hoover—and there were reports that the Chief Executive would disapprove the measure on the ground that it would nullify the Eighteenth amendment.

The senators were discussing the relative merits of repeal and modification. Senator Borah, a bone dry, said he liked the repeal plan offered by Senator Blaine of Wisconsin, who is very wet. Mr. Blaine's resolution would amend the Constitution, first, by forbidding transportation of intoxicants into any state or territory in violation of its laws; second, by authorizing congress to enact laws to aid enforcement in dry states. This he would substitute for the Eighteenth amendment.

WETS in the house were defeated in two attempts to cut off funds for prohibition enforcement. Amendments to the treasury supply bill designed to slash \$9,000,000 from the 1934 appropriation for the coast guard were offered by Schafer of Wisconsin and Boylan of New York, but both were voted down.

JAPAN was becoming more and more isolated by developments in Geneva. The League of Nations conciliation committee of nineteen which is now to handle the Sino-Japanese trouble over Manchuria, intended to ask the United States and Russia to have representatives on the committee, but Tokyo instructed its delegation at Geneva to reject any such proposal. Indeed, Japan declines to let the committee settle the controversy, thus disregarding the friendly advice of Great Britain.

Then Maxim Litvinov, Soviet foreign affairs commissar, issued a statement that Russia and China are resuming diplomatic negotiations, that were ruptured in 1927. He gave out the news after a parley with D. W. W. Yen, Chinese delegate at Geneva. This was looked on as a direct bid for recognition of Russia by the United States.

A spokesman for the government in Tokyo said this action by what he described as the nations "most disturbing to the peace of the world" was "indirectly threatening" Japan.

CHAIRMAN MARVIN JONES of the house agricultural committee introduced the Democratic farm relief measure in the house, the same being the allotment plan which is favored by President-Elect Roosevelt. With this as a basis the Democrats hope to work out a bill that can be passed at this session.

The Jones bill which applies only to wheat, cotton, tobacco, and hogs, provides virtually two plans in one. For 1933 the secretary of agriculture would fix the percentage of these commodities required for domestic consumption.

No means of curtailing production is provided. Thirty days after passage of the act producers of the four commodities would be entitled to receive adjustment certificates on that portion of their sales falling within the domestic consumption percentage.

The certificates would be issued at the rate of 42 cents a bushel for wheat, 5 cents a pound for cotton, 4 cents for tobacco, and 2 cents for hogs, less a small administrative charge.

With passage of the act adjustment charges at these same rates would be levied on the processing of the four commodities. Tariffs at these rates would be levied on imports and an extra tariff of 5 cents a pound on short staple cotton and cotton goods would be imposed.

PRESIDENT HOOVER, in the presence of a group of distinguished persons, accepted on behalf of the nation the deed to the wooded island of Anolostan in the Potomac river which is now a natural shrine to the memory of Theodore Roosevelt. The President directed that it "shall hereafter be known as Theodore Roosevelt island and dedicated to the nation." Among those present at the ceremony were Mrs. Hoover, Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Secretary of State Stimson and General Pershing.

BLOODY fighting in the Chaco continues between Bolivia and Paraguay, and it is estimated that the casualties already have reached 30,000. The Paraguayan forces claim to have captured several forts recently and have seemed to be having the best of the conflict. But the Bolivians are greatly strengthened by the presence of Gen. Hans Kundt, the German officer who is commanding them in the field.

SECRETARY MILLS



Ogden Mills, secretary of the treasury, urged the house ways and means committee to help balance the budget by introducing in congress a bill for a manufacturers' excise sales tax. He estimated that a tax on legalized beer would bring in between \$125,000,000 and \$150,000,000 the first year.

ROBINS' STATEMENT ON HIS QUEER CASE

Says "Darkness" Averted More Serious Collapse.

New York.—Raymond Robins, prohibitionist, social reformer and friend of President Hoover, made his first public statement concerning his disappearance en route from New York to Washington to keep an appointment with the President. He denied that he was a "quitter." That was taken as a reply to hints that his disappearance and reappearance as "Reynolds Rogers," prospector in North Carolina mountains, had been a sham in order to hide from something.

The statement was brought here from Brooksville, Fla. There Colonel Robins is recuperating at his winter home.

"I have come through a terrible experience," says Robins' statement. "Here in my home, surrounded by my family and the friends and associations I have loved since I was a boy, I am being fully restored. Those who are wise in matters of this sort assure me that the darkness that overtook me in the midst of my day's work was a provision of nature to save me from a serious collapse. Those who meet me in the future will be able to judge of my mental clarity. Those who have known my life in the past will not believe I have been a quitter."

"For the generous and tender helpfulness of many dear friends in these hours of suffering for my wife and family I am grateful beyond words. For the competent and kindly co-operation of the officers of government and the humane aid—and in the main, truthful and fair treatment—accorded me by the public press, I cherish abiding gratitude."

"In so far as there has been untrue and unfair comment, I forgive its authors and accept it as the cost of a life spent in battle for causes I hold dear. All that I ask for the future is judgment upon the facts of my work from day to day."

Doctor Smith, who went to Florida at Robins' invitation, asserted that the Robins case was one of overwork causing physical and intellectual fatigue, and that any hint of there being subterfuge or deception concerning his disappearance is entirely unworthy and unwarranted.

Cuban House Sets 8 Hours as Maximum Working Day

Havana, Cuba.—The house of representatives, by a vote of 121 to 4, sanctioned a labor bill which establishes eight hours as a maximum working day in all industries and businesses. The measure will affect 350,000 men and women.

Madrid Girl Flyer Marries in Plane

Madrid.—Madrid's popular aviatrix, Elisa Prieto, was married in the air to Emilio Copano, a Madrid merchant. She had to be content with a civil marriage for the priest refused to make the flight when the three motors of the plane began to roar. A Judge performed the ceremony.

Allan Hoover Is Elected to the Bachelors' Club

Los Angeles.—The Bachelors' club a group of socially prominent young men who still cling to "single blessedness," has a new member. He is Allan Hoover, son of President Hoover

ALLOTMENT PLAN FOR FARM RELIEF

Democratic Bill Introduced in the House.

Washington.—Chairman Marvin Jones of the house agricultural committee introduced as the Democratic farm relief bill a measure calling for the setting up of the allotment plan, more far-reaching than heretofore proposed.

The bill carries with it the blessing of President-Elect Roosevelt and embodies the work of his advisers. Using it as a basis the Democrats in congress hope to work out a farm relief program which may be passed at this session.

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Prior to the planting of 1934 crops of wheat, cotton, and tobacco, and the breeding of hogs for the 1934 pig crop, the secretary of agriculture might recommend and the President proclaim a second year in which the adjustment charges and tariffs would be in effect.

But in the second year only those producers who entered into voluntary contracts not to increase production or at the order of the secretary to decrease production would receive a splitup at the end of the crop year of the money in the fund raised by the charges on their particular commodity.

Dish of Snake Fatal to Chinese Official

Canton, China.—Chu Chaohsin, inspector general of foreign affairs in the Canton government and formerly charge d'affaires in the Chinese legation in London, died after a dinner at naval headquarters. Physicians said snake poisoning caused death.

The dinner was in honor of Admiral Sir Howard Kelly, commander in chief of the British naval forces in the Far-East.

Snake was on the menu at the dinner given by the Naval club. Chu was believed to have swallowed venom that had not been removed. Prior to the dinner, the Chinese diplomat was well.

Russia Won't Surrender Insurgents to Japan

Moscow.—The foreign office published a sharp exchange of notes between the Soviet and Japanese governments in which Moscow categorically refused to surrender the Manchurian insurgent general, Sa Ping-Wen, and his army or to prevent their departure from the Soviet union.

General Su recently fled before Japanese forces in the Manchul region in northwest Manchuria and crossed the Russian border.

House Beats Move to Impeach Hoover

Washington.—Party affiliations were ignored in the house of representatives before the unprecedented spectacle of presentation by Representative Louis T. McFadden, Republican, of Pennsylvania, of a resolution to impeach President Hoover for "high crimes and misdemeanors" in connection with the war debts. Democrats and Republicans alike rushed with a vote of 361 to 8 to overwhelm and table the Pennsylvaniaian's proposal.

Marilyn Miller and Alvarado to Wed

London.—Marilyn Miller and Don Alvarado of the American stage and screen announced their engagement here.

Miss Miller and Alvarado were members of a "stowaway party" carried to sea by the liner Bremen when the ship sailed from New York.

Trick Cyclist Is Dead

Raleigh, N. C.—R. B. ("Red") Parrish, once famed as a trick motorcycle rider, died here in comparative obscurity.