


# CURRENT EVENTS PASS IN REVIEW

## GREAT NATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM REPORTED—STEEL INDUSTRY'S PLANS.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S national resources board, appointed last June to devise "a plan for planning," with Secretary of the Interior Ickes as its chairman, has submitted a long report offering a program, covering 20 to 30 years, for development of land, water and resources at an expenditure of \$195,000,000,000. It surveys projects which presumably include the administration's relief and public works program for the immediate future,

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- these being:
1. Improvement of highways and the elimination of grade crossings.
  2. National housing, including slum clearance, subsistence homestead, rehabilitation, and low cost housing projects.
  3. Water projects, including water supply, sewage treatment, flood control, irrigation, soil erosion prevention, and hydro-electric power developments.
  4. Rural electrification.

Secretary of Labor Perkins, a member of the board, has said that if its recommendations are carried out, all unemployment will be eliminated for the next 25 years. These, she says, are the results that might be expected:

1. Provide a much greater development of water resources.
2. Stop menace of floods.
3. Stop soil erosion.
4. Remove all marginal or sub-marginal lands from attempted production.
5. Stop waste of mineral resources and substitute a national policy of conservation.
6. Create great new recreational areas.
7. Assemble basic data for mapping, public finance and population, necessary for national planning, with a middecennial census in 1935.
8. Co-ordinate socially-useful federal, state and municipal public works.
9. Provide for continuous long-range planning of land, water and mineral resources "in relation to each other and to the larger background of the social and economic life in which they are set."

The board's report does not suggest that the government spend the \$105,000,000,000 involved, but recommends a national plan of co-ordinating federal construction projects with state and local undertakings. It also recommends a public works "reserve" of \$10,000,000,000 to take up the slack of construction in periods of depression, but does not suggest where such a fund—more than one-third of the total national debt—could be obtained.

FROM his economic security advisory committee the President received a recommendation for an unemployment insurance system based upon contributions from employers through a pay roll tax; and also three proposed plans for old age pensions submitted for his consideration.

It was recommended that payments to workers who become jobless should be 50 per cent of their pay but payments were not to be less than \$15 per week for 25 weeks in the year. States would be permitted to set a higher standard if they wished.

A "waiting period" of from two to four weeks between the time a worker lost his job and the time insurance payments started was provided for.

FIVE years ago it was asserted that the steel industry was far overbuilt. But its general program for 1935 building is now made public, showing that it plans the expenditure of \$100,000,000 for new equipment. This includes the Ford Motor company's \$19,000,000 program, already described in this column. Other items are: The United States Steel corporation has pledged \$40,000,000 worth of modernization in the coming year.

The National Steel corporation has announced a \$12,000,000 expansion for its subsidiary, the Great Lakes Steel corporation.

Carnegie Steel is building a 42-inch hot strip mill at Youngstown, Ohio, and Bethlehem is planning a 60-inch hot strip mill for its Lackawanna works at Buffalo.

Youngstown Steel and Tube company is completing a \$7,000,000 mill at its Campbell (Ohio) works, and nearby the Republic Steel corporation is spending \$500,000 for a new electric weld tube mill building.

"BALANCED abundance" is the keynote sounded in the program offered by Secretary of Agriculture

Wallace in his annual report. Convinced that agriculture should be brought under permanent federal control, he will ask congress for drastic new legislation. This will include broad amendments to the AAA, great extension of the grain futures act and passage of the Tugwell food and drugs bill. While he insists on continuance of crop control, Mr. Wallace advises against falling into the pit of "scarcity economics"; nevertheless, he defends the working of the AAA reduction schemes to date.

He sees "the end of our period of emergency adjustments, of drastic reduction in farm output coming into view." Hereafter, the task may include adjustment of production to a rising demand, he says. To this end, as a safeguard against the effects of crop failure in the future, the secretary develops his proposal for "an ever normal granary." Larger reserves against crop failure would be maintained. These, he believes, should remain in the control of the farmers, through storage and government loan arrangements, coupled with an obligation to participate in continued crop adjustments. By co-ordinating storage with crop adjustments, farmers would have the beginning of means to control live stock production cycles, it is held.

The Tugwell amendment to the food and drug act is defended by Wallace on the ground that it would remove from the government "the formidable obligation of proving that claims made in the labeling of patent medicines are both false and fraudulent" and provide more drastic penalties, including jail terms, for violations.

He defends the section of the proposed amendment which would give him czaristic control over all food, drug and cosmetic advertising, a feature which raised a storm of protests in the last session on the ground that it invaded the freedom of the press.

SECRETARY OF WAR DERN is no less insistent on the necessity of strengthening the army than is Secretary of the Navy Swanson in the case of our naval defenses.

In the first section of his annual report Mr. Dern asks that the officer and enlisted strength of the army be increased to 14,000 commissioned officers and 165,000 enlisted men. Other recommendations include:

Purchase of 600 airplanes over a period of three years to give the air corps 2,320 serviceable planes, as urged by the board headed by Newton D. Baker, which investigated the air corps and its needs.

Allocation of sufficient funds to complete the army housing program at home and abroad.

Construction without undue delay of a War department building to house all its activities under one roof instead of in 17 buildings, as at present.

Enactment by congress of legislation to improve the promotion system, so as to give a more uniform and satisfactory flow of promotion without necessitating heavy additional expense.

Increasing the pay of officers, particularly in the lower grades, when the condition of the treasury warrants.

RUSH D. HOLT, the young radical who was elected United States senator from West Virginia, may have a hard time getting his seat, for he will not reach the constitutional age of thirty until next June. The Republican senators are determined to exclude Holt if possible, but they have not yet decided on the method to be pursued. McNary of Oregon, Republican leader, says he will challenge the West Virginian's eligibility when the latter appears to present his credentials to Vice President Garner, asking that the credentials be submitted to the committee of privileges and elections.

Senator William E. Borah of Idaho, a constitutional authority, differs with Senator McNary but merely on the point of procedure. He will take the same position as he took in the case of Frank L. Smith of Illinois and William S. Vare of Pennsylvania, and if he is successful Holt will be seated but later expelled by resolution after the investigating committee makes its report.

THIRTY-ONE years ago, on December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers made at Kitty Hawk, N. C., the historic first flight in a powered airplane, and the anniversary was handsomely celebrated throughout the United States and its possessions. Everywhere that weather conditions permitted, all available airplanes took to the air to honor Orville Wright, the surviving brother, and to demonstrate the extraordinary progress that has been made in aviation. Army and navy air fields, airport managers and owners of planes all co-operated in this celebration of National Aviation day.

PORTUGAL, under the leadership of Dictator-President Carmona, has gone Fascist. A new corporate state, modeled after the system established

in Italy by Mussolini, has been created; Carmona's dictatorship is assured and a new constitution replaces that of 1933 which restored in some measure representative government. The first of the two chambers provided for has just been elected, and only one list of candidates was permitted in the field. Republicans and Socialists, not being represented, generally refrained from voting. Three women were chosen members of the chamber, which has 90 members. The other chamber, of 70, is appointive.

ITALY is having a row with Ethiopia because of an affray at Ualual between two bodies of their troops. Both have reported the affair to the League of Nations, each blaming the other. Premier Mussolini personally presented the Italian side and characterized the fight as "a sudden and unprovoked aggression against Italy's native garrison." He demanded an apology and indemnities, and flatly refused arbitration of the quarrel.

WHILE the senate committee headed by Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota was still investigating munitions makers and their profits and methods, President Roosevelt named another committee charged with the duty of preparing legislation that would authorize the Chief Executive, in time of war, to assume absolute power over industrial profits, prices and wages and over the operations of all industries.

Bernard M. Baruch, New York financier who was head of the war industries board, was made chairman of this committee, and Gen. Hugh S. Johnson was appointed to be Mr. Baruch's assistant. Others on the committee are Secretaries Hull (state), Morgenthau (treasury), Dern (war), and Swanson (navy); Under-secretary of Agriculture Tugwell, acting for Secretary Wallace; Assistant Secretary of Labor McGrady, acting for Secretary Perkins; Assistant Secretary of the Navy Henry Latrobe Roosevelt; Rail Co-ordinator Eastman; Gen. Douglas MacArthur, chief of staff; and Foreign Trade Adviser George N. Peek.

The President told newspaper men gathered at his press conference that "the time has come to take the profit out of war." He declared that not only the war profits of corporations would be under inspection but the wages of individuals as well. He pointed out the disparity between the soldier's pay of \$1 a day and that of the munitions worker at \$10 a day, and declared this unequal mobilization, as he called it, had led to the veterans' demands for a soldiers' and sailors' bonus.

Legislation will be asked of the new congress meeting in January, Mr. Roosevelt said. He added that he regarded the subject as one of the most important of any to be laid before congress.

The President insisted that his move at this time was not prompted by any threat of war. The war horizon, he said, is cloudless. Neither should the proposal be considered one for war preparedness, the President added.

In order that he may aid in handling expected War department legislation, General MacArthur is retained as chief of staff indefinitely.

ALL Michigan was thrown into mourning by one of the worst disasters that ever occurred in that state. The Hotel Kerns in Lansing, crowded with legislators gathered for a special session of the assembly, was destroyed by an early morning fire, and probably as many as forty persons were killed by the flames or by leaping to the street or into the Grand river on the bank of which the hotel stood. The exact number of victims may never be known, for the register was burned. At least six members of the legislature lost their lives.

"I'm in. I have more than enough votes to win," said Representative Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee; and this ended the contest for the speakership of the next house, for a count of noses proved Mr. Byrns was right. The President remained neutral, and one after another the state delegations fell into line for the Tennesseean. There remained the race for the floor leadership which was sought by a number of men, including John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, John E. Rankin of Mississippi, James M. Mead and John J. O'Connor of New York, William W. Arnold and Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois.

INVITED by the League of Nations council to name the commander of the international force to preserve order in the Saar before and during the plebiscite of January 13, the British government gave the post to Maj. J. E. S. Bland, a soldier of considerable experience in and since the World war. The British contingent will comprise 1,500 men. The Italians will number 1,300, the Swedes 250, and the Dutch 250, bringing the total to 3,300.



## THE NEW YEAR By GEORGE COOPER in Indianapolis News

A SONG for the Old  
While its knell is tolled,  
And its parting moments fly!  
But a song and a cheer  
For the glad New Year,  
While we watch the Old Year die!  
Oh! its grief and pain  
Ne'er can come again,  
And its care lies buried deep;  
But what joy untold  
Doth the New Year hold,  
And what hopes within it sleep!

A song for the Old,  
While its knell is tolled,  
With a grander, broader zeal,  
And a forward view,  
Let us greet the New,  
Heart and purpose ever leal!  
Let the ill we met,  
And the sad regret,  
With the Old be buried deep;  
For what joy untold  
Doth the New Year hold,  
And what hopes within it sleep!



HE town hall of the small village of Landers had no clock, but a bell in the cupola. The janitor was one of those fussy fellows who make a positive creed of doing everything on the dot. He kept his watch set "railroad time," consequently when the old man entered the hall in the morning, every one knew it was exactly one minute of seven. The selectmen met there. The offices of the probate judge were on the second floor. The town hall had to be kept warm. When the janitor left at night it was exactly five minutes past six. At six the bell pealed out its only ringing for the day, and people set their watches by it.

Old Foxton had a cubby-hole of his own where he could rest and smoke when he wasn't busy. It was the custom on New Year's eve for the town hall bell to ring out at midnight.

One of the youths who had long coveted the fun of New Year's eve bell-ringing held a conference with a friend. "Have you ever thought," said this enterprising young man, "what a joke it would be to have the whole town late for a day?" His friend cocked up his ears. "It's possible for one individual to send the lives of a thousand people into a tall-spin of unpunctuality... over a mere matter of ten minutes." They stared at each other, a slow grin crowing in their faces. "You pull the

right lever and then watch. In this case the right lever is old Foxton." They went into a huddle of secret planning.

At twelve that night they were to hold especial celebration. They could count on Old Foxton. The moment the big bell began to clang... that would be the first instant of the first minute of the New Year. Exactly! There was something fine and dependable in the thought of Old Foxton, they said. Gave you confidence in the human race. He was as right as Father Time himself.

At one minute of twelve, where parties were in progress, every one stopped talking. They waited expectantly. The minute hand crept on to twelve. Lips were opened in readiness to shout with the first ringing of the great bell. But no sound came clanging over the rooftops... only the small tinkles of their own clocks chiming the hour.

SILENCE! Nothing more. They waited. At ten minutes past the hour the big bell sounded its twelve deep notes. Clocks were set back ten minutes. Even those people awakened from their sleep looked at their watches and set them right with the bell.

Next day confusion reigned—often annoying but not serious. Radio programs were tuned in ten minutes after their beginning.

Two solemn youths, unnaturally grave, were exhibiting their watches to this and that unconvinced citizen. "But you're wrong, both of you," declared every one. "We were all wrong. We know it because we set our clocks by the midnight bell."

The boys raised surprised eyebrows. "But we," they said, "have correct 'railroad' time. Nobody in Landers is right... but us!" It came out at last. It had to, of course. Old Foxton sputtered to his wife. His wife told a neighbor. The news ran like wildfire. Though inclined to be scandalized at first, the whole town laughed. It came to be considered a capital joke... if never repeated.

Twenty minutes before midnight the janitor in his cubby-hole found himself bound, and not too roughly gagged. His watch was removed from his pocket and held before his eyes. The minutes ticked themselves away until twelve. The old man writhed in his bonds. Not a sound from the steeple.

Five minutes past ten minutes past the hour. Then the slow clanging of twelve strokes.

Foxton never discovered who kept him in his chair or who rang the bell. Bandit-wise a handkerchief swathed all but the eyes of his jailer. When the last stroke sounded, the stranger untied Foxton's arms. He swiftly left, locked the door, and threw the key through the transom. By the time the old man had freed himself there wasn't so much as a sound in the entire building.

"It's a good idea, just the same," remarked one solemn youth to another, "for a person not to be right all of the time!"