

CURRENT EVENTS PASS IN REVIEW

ROOSEVELT'S RADIO CHAT IS OPTIMISTIC—VIEWS OF BUSINESS LEADERS.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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HIGH optimism marked the "fireside chat" which President Roosevelt delivered over the radio to the people of America, which people, he said, are, as a whole, "feeling a lot better—a lot more cheerful than for many, many years." He asserted we are already on the unmistakable march toward recovery, and told how he means to promote the return to normal conditions with his works relief program. He promised to put to work three and a half million persons now on the relief rolls, and to press for enactment of legislation he considers necessary for carrying on the New Deal.

Only once did Mr. Roosevelt allude to such critics of his administration as Senator Long, Father Coughlin and Governor Talmadge. He said: "The overwhelming majority of people in this country know how to sift the wheat from the chaff in what they hear and what they read. They know that the process of the constructive rebuilding of America cannot be done in a day or a year, but that it is being done in spite of a few who seek to confuse them and to profit by their confusion."

These six "fundamental principles," said the President, must guide the work relief program: Projects must be useful, most of the money must go for labor, "a considerable proportion of the costs" must be returned to the treasury, only those projects which can employ persons on relief will be approved, and projects will be approved in a given area in proportion to the unemployed in that area.

HOW the New Dealers propose to redistribute wealth by double taxation of large estates is revealed by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau in a letter to Senator Pat Harrison, chairman of the senate finance committee. Mr. Morgenthau outlines a plan of imposing inheritance taxes and also retaining the existing estate taxes, as setting this is in line with "our fundamental objectives." That this would result in the dissolution of large properties, the secretary recognizes, for he says:

"To prevent the necessity of hasty liquidation of large properties in order to pay the tax, it might be provided that inheritance taxes be payable in a convenient number of installments." The plan as outlined by Mr. Morgenthau is to impose graduated inheritance taxes on estates, with rates following those of the present income tax rates, which approximate 60 per cent on incomes of a million dollars or more. The present estate taxes have a maximum of 60 per cent over ten million dollars.

Thus there would first be a tax of 60 per cent upon the estate or gift, and then another tax of 60 per cent to be paid by those inheriting or receiving it. This would amount to a combined rate of 85 per cent on an estate of one hundred million dollars. If all this money were handed out to the poorer people, even Huey Long might be satisfied.

LEGISLATION which the President said, in his radio talk, should be enacted by congress immediately included the old age and unemployment insurance bill, the NRA extension bill, the public utility holding company bill, the transportation control bill, and the banking bill.

Here he comes into conflict again with the views of business leaders of the country. The National Association of Manufacturers has just issued its economic analysis of conditions, which says recovery is "within our grasp" and that the nation is closer to breaking the back of the depression than at any time for years, but asks that, in order to stimulate business, the administration and congress temporarily shelve as "disturbing" such legislation as unemployment insurance, the omnibus banking bill, the utility holding company bill, the 30-hour work week, the Wagner labor disputes bill, the Guffey bituminous coal measure and proposed changes in railroad laws.

Of tied-up capital, the analysis said this:

"Surveys indicate that close to \$20,000,000,000 in expenditures, which would give employment to 4,000,000

men for two years, is pent up in the field of factory expansion, renovation and rehabilitation alone.

"The release of this flow of private capital by removing political uncertainties would dwarf the billions appropriated by congress for relief and make unnecessary the expenditure of much of the taxpayers' money."

This document was given out as the members of the United States Chamber of Commerce were gathering in Washington for their twenty-third annual convention, and naturally their speakers endorsed it and attacked much of the proposed legislation mentioned as unwarranted intrusion of the government into business.

Henry I. Harriman, who has been president of the organization for three years, retired from that office in favor of Harper Sibley of Rochester, N. Y.

PLANS for spending the \$4,880,000,000 work relief fund are being made rapidly, parts of the general scheme being revealed to the public almost every day. The President will be the final arbiter but practically all the federal agencies will participate and three new ones have been announced by Mr. Roosevelt. These will handle rural rehabilitation, rural electrification and grade crossing elimination.

Standing at the President's right hand is Frank C. Walker, former treasurer of the Democratic party. He has replaced Donald Richberg as chairman of the National Emergency council and is the head of a new division in that body known as the division of application and information. Under his direction all proposals will be sorted out and data on them from various government units will be co-ordinated. Then they will be handed on, with Mr. Walker's recommendations, to a new works allotment board which is headed by Secretary Harold Ickes.

Mr. Roosevelt also announced the appointment of Federal Relief Administrator Harry L. Hopkins as chief of a works progress division. He will pick workers, fix wages, purchase materials and generally supervise projects.

In a press conference the President named these eight types of work which will be undertaken, with the amount of money to be spent on each:

1. Highways, roads, streets, grade crossing elimination, and express highways, \$800,000,000.
2. Rural rehabilitation, relief in stricken agricultural areas, water conservation, water diversion, irrigation, reclamation, rural industrial communities, and subsistence homesteads, \$500,000,000.
3. Rural electrification, \$100,000,000.
4. Housing, low cost housing in rural and urban areas, reconditioning, and remodeling, \$450,000,000.
5. Assistance for educational, professional, and clerical persons and other "white collar" unemployed, \$300,000,000.
6. Citizen Conservation corps, \$600,000,000.
7. Sanitation, soil erosion, stream pollution, reforestation, flood control, rivers and harbors, \$350,000,000.
8. Loans, grants, or both, to cities, counties, states, and other political subdivisions for public works, \$900,000,000.

HAVING listened to Senator Long of Louisiana and other orators who do not like the administration and its New Deal and also have little love

for the G. O. P., the National Farmers' Holiday association, in session at Des Moines, Iowa, decided that a third national political party should be formed.

Milo Reno, national president of the association, had a lively encounter with a group of alleged Communists during a business session. They sought adoption of a resolution calling for legislation for "relief without debts," "production credit without strings," and immediate repeal of the AAA. Reno denounced them as Wall Street racketeers and henchmen of Soviet Russia.

"You can't talk. You can't argue. Don't try to get the floor. I'm running this meeting," Reno said. "Sit down and shut up. Get out before we get really mad."

REPUBLICANS of nine midwestern states who met at Excelsior Springs, Mo., decided that the "grass roots" conference of leaders of the party should be held in Springfield, Ill., the date to be fixed later, though it probably will be early in June. The purpose of this gathering will be the rejuvenation of the party and the launching of a campaign to restore popular government. The nine states participating, which will name delegates, are Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Wisconsin and Oklahoma.

ORGANIZED labor opened its attempt to obtain recognition in the automobile industry with a strike of workers in the Toledo plant of the Chevrolet Motor company. The factory was closed down immediately, though only a part of the force joined in the strike. Union pickets were placed about it, but city police and deputy sheriffs were on hand to see that there was no disorder.

President Sloan of General Motors corporation issued this statement in New York:

"The vital question involved is whether General Motors corporation is willing to sign an agreement for a closed shop recognizing the local union as the exclusive representative of all the employees of the Toledo plant. This General Motors will not do."

The union, in a lengthy statement, said its committee "has done everything in its power to meet with the management and to secure an amicable and fair adjustment of the matter of wages, hours and union recognition and various other grievances."

"The management refused to sign a contract of any kind and flatly refused every section of the proposed contract with the exception of two minor points."

The company offered to make wage readjustments and give a 5 per cent general wage increase, show no discrimination against union men, and agreed to respect seniority rights as provided by the automobile labor board.

AMBASSADORS of the United States, Chile, Peru, and Argentina delivered to the Brazilian government a collective note asking Brazil to participate in efforts to end the Paraguay-Bolivia war in the Chaco by mediation. Brazil rejected such an invitation some time ago because she had been unintentionally excluded from a projected Chaco economic conference.

The two warring nations were engaged in a long and very bloody battle, the outcome of which was still undecided.

GEN. W. W. ATTERBURY, veteran official of the Pennsylvania railroad, has retired as president of the company eight months before that would have been necessary under its regulations, because of ill health. The directors unanimously elected

Martin W. Clement to succeed him. The new president of the great system was born 53 years ago in Sunbury, Pa., and entered the service of the road in 1901 as a rodman. His promotion was steady and nine years ago he became the vice president.

General Atterbury had this to say of his successor: "Since he became vice president, Clement has been intimately associated with me in conducting the company's affairs and in our relations with the other railroads and with the government."

"The remarkable results achieved by the company last year, one of the most difficult periods the railroad has ever experienced, were largely due to Clement's leadership. His manifest capabilities have commended him not only to his associate directors and officers, but also to the executives of other railroads with whom he has been working in recent years in the interest of the railroad industry as a whole."

"Moreover, he enjoys the confidence, respect and co-operation of the entire Pennsylvania railroad organization."

GERMANY'S latest breach of the treaty of Versailles, the building of submarines, is stirring up a lot of angry talk in Great Britain, France and Italy. The English are especially disturbed, for they remember only too vividly how near the Germans came to starving them during the war by the destruction of shipping by the undersea boats. Anglo-German conversations on naval restriction were to have been held in London the second week in May, and these may now be called off or at least postponed.

The French are less vexed because they think the development may force a showdown on the whole status of the German navy and Hitler's demand for at least 35 per cent of the British tonnage and approximate parity with that of France. Naval experts in Paris said the disclosure might "well prove of inestimable benefit for military France in awakening naval Britain to the dangers of Hitler's armaments policy."

Information obtained by the powers was that Germany already had under construction a number of 250-ton submarines and planned a large fleet of them. Spokesmen for the German government denied that any were being built yet, but at the same time admitted that submarines were being "considered" in connection with plans for rebuilding the navy.

The League of Nations council appointed a committee to study what action should be taken if Germany violated the peace treaty again, so observers are interestedly waiting to see if the matter will be taken up at the council meeting on May 20.

DOLLS OF MANY LANDS SHOWN IN PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the children's room at the public library at Westfield, Ohio, called the Athenaeum, various dolls, illustrating well-known historical characters and others appearing in children's books, are on display.

In the dolls representing characters from literature group an interesting figure is that of Tiny Tim, created by Dickens in his immortal "The Christmas Carol." The small bit of Royal Doulton china shows an amazing likeness to one's conception of Tiny Tim. Then, too, in the group of literature characters are found the Little Women dolls, by Mme. Alexander. They are Meg, Beth, Jo and Amy. Little Red Riding Hood is another character portrayed in this collection.

Among the dolls representing foreign countries is a Sardinian doll in native costume of authentic color and style; a Swedish peasant woman, dressed in clothes made from homespun; a Czechoslovakian doll with ball joints making it possible to move her arms and legs and dressed in the native costume of the country; and Rosika, a Hungarian doll, dressed in the authentic girls' costume of her country.

Two Russian peasant dolls add interest to the group. These latter are Tanka and Vanka. The foot coverings of these two are made from strips of bark woven into sandals.

Two of interest are the Scottish dolls, dressed in Highlander costumes, one wearing an authentic royal Stewart tartan and the other dressed in the native costume of the from Ireland, also are among those in the collection.

Among the dolls dressed to represent the United States are George and Martha Washington, dressed in costumes copied from pictures of the period. The silk of Martha's dress is about one hundred years old; John Alden and Priscilla, dressed in Pilgrim garb, and Lucy Rodgers, a china doll of the Civil war period.

Might Try It

If you have a tree that bears no fruit put a stone in its first crotch just before blossoming time; the tree will surely be fruitful after that.—Old Belief.

COWS ON GRASS SPREE
Farmers in the vicinity of East London, Cape Province, are greatly disturbed because their cows come home dazed and giving less milk than formerly. Growers blame their bos-sies' condition to a mysterious species of grass, called "Buffalo Kweck," which has appeared on the border of grazing fields. The grass is sweet but its effect is "dynamite" to cows, the farmers say.

Week's Supply of Postum Free
Read the offer made by the Postum Company in another part of this paper. They will send a full week's supply of health giving Postum free to anyone who writes for it.—Adv.

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