

Current Events in Review

By Edward W. Pickard

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New Housing Program of the Administration

FEDERAL money totaling \$976,000,000 will be spent in the next four years on low-cost rent and slum clearance construction projects, provided the administration's housing bill, introduced by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, is passed by congress. Mr. Wagner hopes it will be put through during the present session.

The measure is a compromise of the many proposals made by the various relief and housing agencies of the New Deal and was drafted after a series of conferences with President Roosevelt. It would create another bureau, with five directors, including the secretary of the interior in his ex officio capacity, receiving \$10,000 salaries. The authority could employ officers, agents, counsel and other personnel without limitation as to number or compensation and without regard for the civil service laws. This authority would supplant the existing housing division of the Public Works Administration.

The authority would be empowered to make grants not to exceed 45 per cent of the total cost and loans for the remainder to any public housing agency for the acquisition of land and the construction of "low-rent" housing projects. The loans would be repayable over a period not to exceed 60 years, at such rates of interest as the authority decreed. In addition to the loans and grants, the authority could develop and administer so-called demonstration projects, which "as soon as practicable" would be sold to public housing agencies.

Senate Begins Impeachment Trial of Judge Ritter

RESOLVING itself into a court, the senate began the impeachment trial of Federal Judge Halsted L. Ritter of Florida—the twelfth such case in 137 years. It was believed the trial would last at least one week. The defendant was represented by Carl T. Hoffman of Miami and Frank R. Walsh of Washington and New York. The prosecution was in charge of Representatives Summers of Texas, Hobbs of Alabama and Perkins of New Jersey.



Judge Ritter

Judge Ritter is charged in seven impeachment articles voted by the house with allowing A. L. Rankin, a former law partner, exorbitant receivership fees, with "corruptly" receiving \$4,500 from Rankin, with violating the judicial code in practicing law while on the bench, and with evasion of taxes on part of his 1929 and 1930 incomes.

Wallace Reports Some Big AAA Payments

DUE to the insistence of Senator Vandenberg for publicity on large AAA benefit payments, Secretary Wallace has begun telling about them. He made a partial report, withholding the names of recipients with three exceptions. This revealed that the largest cotton rental benefit payment, \$123,747 for 1934, went to a Mississippi company headed by Oscar Johnston, an AAA official. Among the largest cotton payment recipients in 1933 were the Mississippi state penitentiary, which received \$43,200 for controlling production on its cotton acreage, and \$25,500 to the Arkansas state prison.

Among other large payments reported under various crop control programs were:

Sugar—\$961,064 to a Puerto Rican corporation; \$862,469 to a Hawaiian producer; \$92,237 to a California beet sugar producer; \$65,505 to a Colorado beet sugar grower.

Corn-hogs—\$150,000 to the "largest hog farm in the world," located in California; \$49,194 to a farming company in New Jersey; \$19,098 to a Massachusetts producer.

Wheat—\$29,398 to a California farming concern for the second 1934 and first 1935 periods; \$26,022 to the "operator of a number of farms" in Washington state; \$23,445 to a California bank, owner of a large wheat acreage; \$22,325 to a "large Montana farmer."

Cotton—\$115,700 in 1934 to an Arkansas concern; \$80,000 the same year to another Arkansas company.

Tobacco—\$41,454 to a Florida concern; \$20,430 to a Connecticut producer; \$16,813 to a South Carolina grower; \$15,450 to a Kentucky grower.

Supreme Court Hits at Arbitrary Power

IN A decision concerning a specific action of the Securities Exchange commission the United States Supreme court ruled against the SEC, and in its pronouncement it uttered a significant warning against the exercise of arbitrary power by governmental agencies. Especially censured were the "fishing excursions," often undertaken by commissions and congressional committees. Said the court:

"The philosophy that constitutional limitations and legal restraints upon official action may be brushed aside upon the plea that good, perchance, may follow, finds no countenance in the American system of government. An investigation not based upon specified grounds is quite as objectionable as a search warrant not based upon specific statements of fact.

"Such an investigation, or such a search, is unlawful in its inception and cannot be made lawful by what it may bring, or by what it actually succeeds in bringing to light."

The decision was concurred in by six justices; a dissenting opinion handed down by Justices Cardozo, Brandeis and Stone, agreed with the warning of the abuse of power, but contended that the act of the SEC, held unlawful by the majority, was a legal and just means of stamping out frauds in security sales.

Tornadoes in the South Kill Scores of Persons

TORNADOES tore across Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, and Tennessee, leaving death and destruction in their wake. About 400 persons were killed and hundreds of others injured, and the property losses ran up into the millions. The little city of Tupelo, Miss., suffered the most, with nearly 200 on the death list and more than a hundred homes smashed into kindling wood.

A few hours later another tornado struck Gainesville, Ga., and in three minutes had nearly ruined the business section of the town and killed more than 150 persons. In fires that followed the storm the bodies of many victims were burned beyond recognition.

The mining communities near Columbia, Tenn., to the north and east of Tupelo, counted seven dead. Red Bay, eastward in Alabama, lost five lives to the merciless wind. Near-by Booneville, Miss., had four killed and Batesville, Ark., suffered one death.

The tornadoes struck while the southeast was reaching a final total on storms which smashed through that region a few days before, causing 43 deaths in Georgia, the Carolinas, Alabama and Florida.

Lowden May Be Keynoter for the Republicans

LEADERS of both major parties are perfecting the arrangements for the national conventions and picking out the chief orators for those occasions. The Republicans have tentatively selected Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois, as temporary chairman and keynoter of the gathering in Cleveland. If this choice stands it is presumed the permanent chairman will be an Easterner, possibly Walter Edge of New Jersey, former ambassador and senator.

Some Western governor is wanted by the Democrats as their keynoter and the honor may be given to Paul V. McNutt of Indiana, C. Ben Ross of Idaho or Clyde C. Herring of Iowa. For permanent chairman at Philadelphia Senator Robinson of Arkansas is likely to be picked. The speech putting President Roosevelt in nomination for a second term may be delivered by Senator Wagner of New York.

New York Republicans of the Old Guard persuasion scored a decisive victory over Senator Borah in the primaries, and the Empire state delegation to Cleveland will be pledged to any candidate. The triumph of the conservatives was complete.

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Ethiopia Rains Bombs
Six Marriage Troubles
Marilyn Miller Is Dead
Another Big Question

Addis Ababa is bombed by Italian planes from more than a mile above the city, natives shooting at the Italian pilots with rifles that could not possibly carry one-quarter of the distance. Correspondents with receiving sets listened to the Italian pilots talking to each other by radio. Little Sessale, hurrying south, was not at home when they called. That war should be over soon.



Arthur Brisbane

Dr. Alice E. Johnson, psychiatrist of Philadelphia's Municipal court, gives six reasons for marriage failures. They are: Different family backgrounds of husband and wife; relatives interfering, especially mothers-in-law; infidelity; incompatibility; alcoholism, and a desire to "dominate." There is a seventh reason, to be found in the nature of man, who is still 98 per cent in the age of barbarism.

Marilyn Miller is dead, only thirty-eight years old. The little town of Findlay, Ohio, or the bigger town of New York, might well erect some monument to her memory. She contributed a great deal to human cheerfulness and happiness, and it may be said of her, as Samuel Johnson said, referring to the death of the great actor, Garrick, that her death "eclipsed the gaiety of nations and impoverished the public's stock of harmless pleasure."

A lady who signs "B. A. G." is interested in very serious things. She writes: "The more I hear of those big armies, the more I am reminded of the huge population of hell. What is your idea of hell?"

That big question may be answered later. An aged colored man once told his pastor: "I don't believe in hell, because I don't think any constitution could stand it."

"It worries me," says the lady, "that so many men are afraid of poverty here upon earth, and not afraid of hell." Miss B. A. G. is certain that hell is real, a belief that must be comforting to those anxious to have the wicked punished.

Winthrop W. Aldrich, head of the Chase National bank, biggest in America, knows about money, as did his father before him, the late senator from Rhode Island, who invented the Federal Reserve plan and put it through. Mr. Aldrich thinks it would not be a good idea to turn money loose and encourage a speculative, stock-gambling boom. He remembers 1929.

Under certain circumstances "the prospect of inflation is very grave indeed," says Mr. Aldrich and warns against "the erection of a top-heavy structure of credit again."

An offensive and defensive treaty between Japan and Germany, like the one between France and Russia, is considered a certainty.

It should be possible for nations that want to survive and prosper to get together and let others that must fight kill each other off until they tire of it. This country, at least, should carry out that plan.

Japan and Russia have passed from the "warning" stage to border fighting on the Russian side. Planes, war tanks and heavy artillery are taken across the Manchukuo border by Russia, and that "looks like business."

Russia will soon know how much Mongolia will be worth as a protection against Japan, and Europe may soon know the value of Russia as a protection against Asia.

The Canadian Press news service says Canada's wealth has shrunk almost six thousand million dollars since 1929. That will be only a temporary shrinkage.

You know that England is worried about something when you read that she now demands that the league establish an oil embargo against Italy. A little late, but it is explained that England is outraged by Italy's use of poison gas against the Ethiopians.

Mussolini used something worse than poison gas against England when he occupied the Lake Tana region.

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USEFUL BEES



How an Expert Handles Bees.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

THERE are some 800,000 bees in the United States, producing about 100,000 tons of marketable honey annually. And yet the bee is not a native.

There were no bees in North America when the Spanish explorers arrived. Settlers coming in later expeditions brought them, and at first the Indians called them the "white man's fly." Since then they have followed man in his migration and settlement of every part of the United States and Canada.

Until recently these insects' chief usefulness to man was their production of honey and beeswax—no mean service, since for centuries honey was virtually the only available sweet. But now, as pollinating agents, they perform a far more important duty.

In the pioneer stages of American agriculture, bumblebees and other native pollinating insects that fed upon nectar and pollen were plentiful everywhere. But the planting of vast areas which once were forests, prairies, and swamps with fields of grain, orchards, and gardens upset the delicate balance of nature.

Widespread cultivation of single plants in huge acreages brought about an abnormal condition of insect population. Injurious species, afforded an enormous food supply, prospered and multiplied until now serious insect pests menace almost every important crop.

Insecticides must be used to protect farm crops, particularly fruits. Unfortunately, these materials kill not only harmful but beneficial insects. The toll includes honeybees and other wild bees, as well as the efficient bumblebees—all the insects that carry pollen from one blossom to another.

Plants Need Pollination.

Even yet we scarcely realize the dependence of many plants upon insects to effect pollination. The cutting of wood lots and the clean cultivation of our fields have added to the difficulty of survival of our useful insects, with the result that more and more dependence has to be placed upon the honeybee, the only pollinating insect that can be propagated and controlled.

Some plants bear only male flowers, which produce pollen but no fruit, and female flowers in the same species occur on a separate plant. To set fruit, pollen from the male plant must be carried to the female flower.

Some plants simultaneously bear both male and female flowers, but still require cross-pollination to set fruit. Then there is a third class in which both sexes occur in the same blossom. Some of these plants can set fruit with their own pollen. But in many plants pollen from another is necessary to set a full crop of fruit or seed.

Although the honeybee is by no means domesticated, it is easily controlled. Consequently, millions already are being moved from one section of the country to another and placed in orchards and on farms. Bee men in the South even offer for sale a pollination package, a wire cage filled with bees.

The grower distributes the requisite number throughout his orchards, opens the cages, and leaves the rest to the bees. Hundreds of full colonies are rented to orchardists during the peak of the blooming period. The bee has also largely replaced the camel's hair brush in pollinating cucumbers under glass.

Were it not for the work of the honeybee, most of our apple, pear, plum, and cherry orchards would bear poor crops, the growing of certain forage crops would be unprofitable, and the variety and quantity of our vegetables would be materially reduced.

Found in Nearly All Countries.

Honey and beeswax are produced over a wider geographical range than any other agricultural crop. There is scarcely a country in which honeybees are not kept. They inhabit the Tropic and Temperate zones, they are found in the deserts, on the mountains, in the plains, and in swamps, and as far north as Alaska.

Scattered over the world are several distinct races, such as the Italian, Carniolan, Caucasian, and Cyprian. All races, everywhere, react in almost the same manner.

If honeybees are properly handled, there is no more danger in caring for them than in raising chickens. However, the belief that bees learn to know their master and will not sting him is without foundation.

During the active season the average life of a bee is six weeks. The first two weeks are lived almost exclusively within the hive, but thereafter the bees pass most of the daylight hours in the fields when the weather is good, in search of pollen and nectar. Since the beekeeper rarely opens the hive more than once a week, there is little opportunity for the bees to become acquainted with their owner.

Some persons are so constituted that one sting may prove highly dangerous to them and require immediate medical attention, but these cases are rare.

During the active season, a normal colony contains one queen, a fully developed female; thousands of unproductive worker bees, which are females only partly developed; and several hundred drones, or male bees. The queen is endowed with great powers of reproduction, since she can even produce male progeny without mating, but she cannot produce female bees, workers or queens, without going through the marriage ceremony. Thus, the mated drone is indispensable to the completion of the immortal cycle of the honeybee.

Queen's Wedding Flight.

Upon the wedding flight of the queen depends the subsequent development of the colony. On a bright spring day the virgin queen emerges from the hive and soars away to seek a mate from among the hundreds of drones cruising about in the warm sunshine. Blissfully, perhaps, the drone is seeking an encounter that will cost him his life, but insure the perpetuation of his race.

A moment after mating the drone dies and the newly mated queen at once becomes a widow. But this one mating enables the queen for the rest of her life, three or four years, to perform her maternal duties.

A few days after returning to the hive, she begins egg laying, slowly at first; but at the height of her career she may lay as many as 1,500 eggs a day and maintain this rate for days at a time.

She lays two kinds of eggs. One kind is unfertilized and hatches into a drone, or male bee. Mating has no influence upon this part of her family. Her sons are not the sons of her mate or husband, and are consequently fatherless, but they can claim a grandfather.

The other type of egg is fertilized by the queen with a male cell, of which she retains an almost unlimited number in a special organ of her body. The fertilized egg hatches into a female bee, usually a worker.

Thus both workers, or neuter bees, and queens come from the same kind of egg. Yet the two show marked differences. The queen has the function of reproduction; the worker bee has not. The queen bee possesses teeth on her mandibles, or jaws; the worker bee has smooth jaws. The worker bee has pollen baskets; the queen lacks them. The worker bee has a straight, barbed, untractable sting; the queen has a curved, smooth sting. The worker bee loses its life after stinging, but the queen does not.

A worker bee takes 21 days to develop from the egg to the adult, while a queen, who is much larger, requires only 15 or 16 days. The colony itself has the power of determining whether a fertilized egg shall develop into a queen or a worker bee.

During its normal existence, only one queen is necessary to maintain the population of a colony. Unlike the worker bee, who lives but six weeks, the queen may live two, three, or more years, but eventually she also becomes old and decrepit. Then a new queen must be raised to carry on the life of the colony.