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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Eastman Foresees Government Ownership and Operation of Railways—Progress of President's Money Bill—American Recognition for Mendieta.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WHEN the railroad problem of the United States is solved, it will be found that the solution is government ownership and operation, in the opinion of Joseph B. Eastman, federal co-ordinator of transportation. The conclusion is set forth in his first report, made to the Interstate Commerce commission and transmitted to President Roosevelt, Vice President Garner and Speaker Rainey. Mr. Eastman says the solution he foresees would not be inconsistent with our theory of government.

Explaining that when governments acquire private property they normally pay more than it is worth, Mr. Eastman reaches the conclusion that the remedy should not be applied to railroads now because the country is not financially in a condition to stand the strain of an acquisition of these great properties.

The co-ordinator, having set up what he wishes to be the objective of future national railroad policy, then proceeds to make recommendations within the limits of existing laws. He is decidedly skeptical of the Prince plan for consolidation of the roads, for his assistant, William B. Poland, has made studies that show the economies under this scheme would be less than one-third of the original estimates.

Most significant of the recommendations on consolidations is that proposals for compulsory consolidations should be given a trial, provided that the commission and the co-ordinator find the proposed mergers to be in the public interest. Mr. Eastman throws the weight of his approval behind a method of compulsory consolidation through exchange of securities without the use of cash. Execution of such a method, which the co-ordinator's legal assistant, Leslie Craven, believes can be accomplished, would accelerate the merging of eastern railroads into the four systems previously agreed upon.

Mr. Eastman says that reorganization of railroads now bankrupt "should be effected as speedily as practicable, and in a manner which will result in a very material reduction in fixed charges." He calls attention to the fact that some of the most successful reorganizations in railroad history took place in the midst of financial depressions. Wall Street theory has been that reorganizations should be postponed as long as possible.

Many of the railroads' vital problems can be dealt with adequately by the carriers themselves, but "there is as yet insufficient organization and leadership in the industry for effective co-operation in such undertakings." It is quite possible, Mr. Eastman believes, that a study of these problems "will pave the way to a much larger use of motor vehicles as an adjunct to railroad service, and to a re-amping and simplification of the freight-rate structure."

CARLOS MENDIETA is quite satisfactory to the United States as president of Cuba in view of the fact that he has the backing of a majority of the Cuban people and apparently is capable of restoring order in the island. So President Roosevelt informed the diplomatic envoys of the other Latin-American countries whom he had summoned to the White House. The President virtually invited the other nations to take the same course but made it clear that his mind was made up anyway. Next day Jefferson Caffery, acting for the United States government, went to the state department in Havana and handed to Secretary of State Cosme de la Torriente a document notifying the Cubans that the United States was ready to resume diplomatic relations.

The Cubans went wild with joy and the 21-gun salute from the American warship Wyoming in the harbor was answered by salutes from the forts.

Mr. Caffery will be our ambassador to Cuba, and Manuel Marquez Sterling will be the Cuban ambassador to Washington.

Recognition of the Mendieta regime came from practically all other nations. President Roosevelt plans to do sev-

eral favors to Cuba that should make Mendieta solid with his people. The warships in Cuban waters will be withdrawn. The Platt amendment to the Cuban constitution, permitting the United States to intervene in Cuban affairs to maintain law and order will be junked. And congress will be asked to give Cuba a big preferential reduction in the American sugar tariff. Sugar raising is the island's chief industry and for five years it has been in a severe slump, and the resulting depression has caused much of the political disturbance.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S money bill went through the house with a rush, the vote being 360 to 40. Sixty-eight Republicans joined the obedient Democrats in supporting the measure. James R. Claiborne of Missouri and George B. Terrell of Texas were the only Democrats recorded in the negative.

The senate received the bill and referred it to the banking and currency committee, which held a hearing that was lively while it lasted. Prof. George Warren, author of the dollar depreciation and gold purchase program, explained to the committee the theory of commodity price regulation by manipulation of the currency. Then, taking up consideration of the measure, the committee heard the vigorous objections of Senators Glass, Gore and McAdoo to several features of the bill, notably the proposed seizure of the federal reserve bank gold, and the granting of unlimited financial power to the secretary of the treasury.

It was confidently predicted by the administration leaders that the bill would be put through the senate unchanged, but stubborn fights over various proposed amendments were certain. The vote on a plan to limit the use of the \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund was expected to be close. Advocates of the remonetization of silver, who are fairly numerous in the senate, prepared a compromise silver plan to be offered as an amendment to the devaluation measure.

PLANS of the American Legion to ask congress for more liberal treatment of veterans have stirred up a row in Washington. The Legion is urging enactment of a four-point program to cost \$80,000,000 a year. Gen. Frank T. Hines, administrator of the veterans' bureau, thought this figure was too low, estimating the cost at a considerably higher total. The Legion representatives declared the government estimates were erroneous and by inference accused General Hines of ulterior motives and lack of integrity.

In a letter to Edward A. Hayes, commander of the Legion, Hines denounced the criticism of his estimates as wholly uncalled for and said the Legion's own rehabilitation committee had admitted they were more nearly correct than its own estimates. Meanwhile the President had announced new modifications of his executive regulations concerning payments to disabled war veterans, the changes adding more than \$21,000,000 annually. There were intimations at the White House that Mr. Roosevelt would seek to persuade the Democrats in congress not to go beyond this liberalization.

GRAFT and favoritism have been rife in the use of CWA funds, according to the numerous complaints that have been received by President Roosevelt and Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, and audit of the books has been ordered in many localities. The unfortunate state of affairs was admitted by the President, who thus forestalled the revelation of the facts by congressional committees or Republican organizations. At the same time he made it plain that he was standing firmly behind Mr. Hopkins, the ousting of whom was tentatively planned by a group of house Democrats.

More than 4,000,000 persons were given jobs by the CWA and Mr. Roosevelt is asking for an appropriation of \$350,000,000 to carry on the work to May 1; but he insists that the CWA organization be abandoned on that date according to his previous plan. Protests against this course, in congress and all over the country, have been numerous and loud. It is now considered likely that after May 1, continued employment for more than

2,000,000 of the CWA workers will be found in seasonal employment, public works and a revival of industry.

Senators Nye and Borah, who have been attacking the NRA on the ground that its codes fostered monopolies and tended to ruin small business concerns, won a concession from Administrator Johnson. The general agreed to the establishment of a board of outstanding citizens to which small manufacturers and other business men can bring their complaints of ruinous operation of the codes.

All the code authorities have been summoned to meet in Washington February 15 to consider code revisions.

THAT recovery outlays can be ended by June 30, 1935, is the belief of the President, and he gave expression to this when he announced his approval of the bill extending the life of the Reconstruction Finance corporation for another year. He enjoined Jesse Jones, chairman of the R. F. C., not to withdraw more than \$500,000,000 from the treasury in the next fiscal year, except with prior Presidential approval.

DEVELOPMENTS in Japan indicate that the military clique is losing out and that Foreign Minister Koki Hirota will be able to carry out his plans to establish more friendly relations with the United States. Gen. Sadao Araki, who had been minister of war since December, 1931, and who conducted the campaign against China, has resigned ostensibly because of ill health, and has been succeeded by Gen. Senjuro Hayaishi. Last October Araki declared in an interview that "if people believe the foreign policy toward the United States will change, they are absolutely wrong." It was then predicted that there would be a split in the cabinet, and this appears to have come, with the less warlike ministers, led by Hirota, having the upper hand.

Hirota told the diet at its opening that Japan "fervently desires American friendship" and added that no question exists between Japan and the United States that is intrinsically difficult of solution.

JOHN H. MCCOY, for almost a quarter of a century the big Tammany boss of Brooklyn, died of heart disease, and his demise probably means the end of Tammany's domination of the Democratic party in New York, at least for a time. It was expected that a leader satisfactory to the supporters of President Roosevelt would be selected to succeed McCoy.

Another notable political leader passed away when Edward J. Brundage of Chicago committed suicide, presumably because of financial troubles. Highly respected as a lawyer and a man, he formerly was prominent in the Republican party in Illinois and had been attorney general of the state.

CARL VINSON, chairman of the house naval affairs committee, announced that his committee was about to introduce a bill authorizing a \$380,000,000 five-year ship construction program; and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Henry L. Roosevelt gave out word that the President would throw the full support of the administration behind legislation designed to bring the navy up to treaty strength.

The house appropriations committee recommended a fund of \$375,000 for restoring the Great Lakes Naval station to its former status as the navy's major interior training post.

SENATOR HUEY P. LONG of Louisiana sustained another severe blow in the New Orleans Democratic mayoral primary, which is equivalent to an election. The "Kingfish's" candidate, John Klorer, was soundly beaten by T. Semmes Walmsley, the present incumbent and now one of Long's bitterest foes. There was a third candidate and Walmsley did not obtain a clear majority, but Klorer announced that he would not force a runoff primary. His chief issue in the race was a drastic reduction in electric rates in New Orleans, and as the present city administration has promised to bring this about, Klorer said he would take it at its word.

The campaign for the nomination was exceedingly stormy with prospects of violence that did not develop when the day came. Walmsley and Long in their speeches denounced each other without reserve, and the mayor promised to follow the senator to Washington, if necessary, and give him a good thrashing. Having won the fight at the polls, he probably will abandon this project, though he and his organization have pledged themselves to "exterminate" Huey from public life.

BEDTIME STORY FOR CHILDREN

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

BUSTER BEAR IS PIGGISH

NOW, wouldn't you suppose that when there is plenty for everybody, everybody would be contented and happy? But often, altogether too often, it isn't so at all. The more folks have, the more they want. And there are other folks who, no matter how much they have, seem to think that others may be having something better, and instead of making the most of what they have, go about trying to get what their neighbors have.

It seemed, it really did, that there



"These Nuts Are Mine, All Mine," He Roared.

were enough of those queer three-sided little brown nuts under the beech trees for everybody to have all he could eat, and that that beech-nut picnic that beautiful October morning should be the merriest, happiest kind of a picnic. But it wasn't. No, sir, it wasn't. The reason was the piggishness of Buster Bear.

When Buster arrived under the beech trees and saw so many others gathered there for the very same purpose that had brought him there, he right away let selfishness get the best of him. He was greedy, was Buster Bear. He was so greedy that he couldn't bear to see anyone else get a single one of those little brown sweet nuts, although he knew well enough that he couldn't eat all of them to save his life. Right away he began to

growl, and you know his growl is deep and grumbly-rumbly and not at all pleasant to hear.

Those who were nearest him moved off a little farther, but went right on picking up those brown, sweet little nuts. Buster Bear growled more and his growl was deeper and more grumbly-rumbly. All the other little people looked at him anxiously, but kept right on hunting for those brown sweet little nuts. Then Buster Bear quite lost his temper.

"These nuts are mine, all mine," he roared.

Then he ran at Lightfoot the Deer. Lightfoot bounded away, but not far. He knew that Buster Bear could not catch him, and he had no mind to leave those nuts. Then Buster rushed at the Gobbler family and all the Gobblers scurried away, each in a different direction, but they didn't go far. Then Buster rushed this way and rushed that way wherever he saw anyone picking up nuts.

Mrs. Grouse merely darted behind a fallen tree and the minute Buster's back was turned she was scratching over leaves in search of nuts again. Sammy Jay and Redhead the Woodpecker merely flew up in a tree. Chatterer the Red Squirrel and Happy Jack the Gray Squirrel and Unc' Billy and Mrs. Possum climbed the nearest trees. But they were back on the ground again as soon as Buster had turned away.

Peter Rabbit, who was hiding near to see all that went on, had to laugh. He couldn't help it. There was great big Buster Bear so piggish that he wanted all, yet getting hardly a taste because he was spending his time chasing his neighbors. It often is that way with piggish people. In trying to get more than their share they fall to get what they might have as well as not.

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THROUGH a WOMAN'S EYES • By JEAN NEWTON

ON "THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

IT IS the Thursday Lecture; in one sense, a day of public shame; the day on which transgressors who have made themselves liable to the minor severities of the Puritan law, receive their punishment. At this moment the constable has bound an idle fellow to the whipping-post and is giving him his deserts with a cat-o'-nine-tails.

"Ever since sunrise Daniel Fairfield has been standing on the steps of the meeting-house with a halter about his neck, which he is condemned to wear visibly throughout his lifetime; Dorothy Talley is chained to a post at the corner of Prison-lane, with the hot sun blazing on her matronly face, and for no other offence than lifting her hand against her husband. Such are the profitable sights that serve the good people of the New England village to while away the earlier part of lecture-day."

That is a "bit" from one of Nathaniel Hawthorne's sketches of life in old New England. He goes on to describe an aged couple, John Proctor and his wife, Elizabeth, passing, in a company of other condemned prisoners, on their

WITTY KITTY

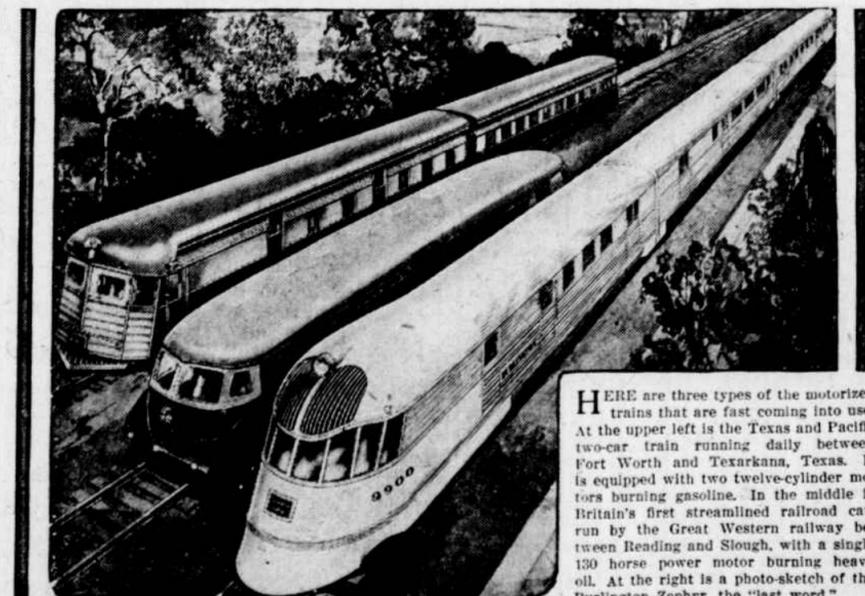
By NINA WILCOX PUTNAM



The Girl-Friend says she used to tell her husband everything that happened, and now she tells him a lot of things that never happened.

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American and British Motorized Trains



HERE are three types of the motorized trains that are fast coming into use. At the upper left is the Texas and Pacific two-car train running daily between Fort Worth and Texarkana, Texas. It is equipped with two twelve-cylinder motors burning gasoline. In the middle is Britain's first streamlined railroad car, run by the Great Western railway between Reading and Slough, with a single 150 horse power motor burning heavy oil. At the right is a photo-sketch of the Burlington Zephyr, the "last word."

Really a Snappy Bathing Suit



MAYBE it won't feel so good to Miss Mabelle Petit of Boston (center) when Doris Pritchard and Marjorie Brooker let go of Mabelle's bathing suit; for it is made of rubber and has plenty of snap to it. They are all frolicking at the Beach Cabana club pool in Miami Beach, Fla.

Do YOU Know—



That February, is so named because the Romans celebrated Februa, a festival of purification and expiation on the 15th of the month, for the manes of the dead. This month, together with January was added to the year by Numa, about 713 B. C.

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fulness for having been born when you were.

For women particularly the most glamorous times in the past would make a very poor exchange. In times and places where men were not engaged in making living difficult for each other they certainly made no effort to make it easy for women. Compare this day of emancipation for women of all classes and tell me—would you swap it for any other?

The Silvery Years

By ANNE CAMPBELL

NOW we have come to the silvery years. Silver with vanished hopes, silver with tears, silver with promises of silver dawns, when Death's silver chessmen take Life's silver pawns.

Now we have come to the silvery years. Silver my tresses, and silver appears Stealing the brown of your own pretty hair; The silver of winter is shimmering there.

Now we have come to the silvery years. The journey is ending, the shadowed path clears. And over the top of the silvery hill The bright silver moon of our love rises still!

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BONERS



A pedagogue is an animal with large ears.

BONERS are actual humorous tid-bits found in examination papers, essays, etc., by teachers.

Linear expansion is illustrated by the days getting longer when the weather gets warmer.

Lightning was invented and developed by Benjamin Franklin.

The first wheat was discovered in Egyptian mummies.

Like magnetic poles bit each other.

Space from which all matter has been removed is called heaven.

Heresy is where a child looks like his father.

John Smith was a brave man, he married Pocahontas.

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Blue Attracted Suitors A religious sect living in eastern Pennsylvania, once had a custom of painting their front doors a bright blue to advise young men of the neighborhood that a marriageable daughter lived within the house.