

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

War Possible, Four Kinds
10,000 Million Questions
Our Large Gold Pile
Knows Too Much at Four

Russian newspapers, speaking officially, accuse Japan of stirring up trouble along the Russian border, to "bring on grave complications."

A protest carries Stalin's warning to Japan that a continuation of these incidents "may have serious consequences in the relations of Russia and Japan, and peace in the Far East."

If Russia and Japan should have a serious disagreement, Russia's equipment in the way of submarines and airplanes, all within 400 miles of Tokyo, would probably enable other countries to stop worrying about Japan's military plans.

England does not approve of Mussolini's plans in Abyssinia, and the question arises, would England close the Suez canal, the short cut for Italian troops and supplies to Abyssinia? Will Italian airplanes be forbidden to fly over the Suez canal area?

The answer as to closing the Suez canal by Britain would probably be no. England would not voluntarily provoke hostilities with Italy. She really wants peace. But, how easily war could come—French against German or English against Italian or Japanese against Russian!

Germany undertakes to establish a "family tree" for each of its 66,000,000 inhabitants, which means asking, answering, writing down ten thousand million questions.

The sensible answer would be, "I descend from Adam, with heaven knows how many mixtures in my blood on the way up," but Hitler would not accept that. Young couples getting marriage licenses are questioned: "What were your eight great-grandparents like? Did they have any Negro or Jewish blood?"

"Were they fond of telling the truth? Did they have imagination, driving power?"

Ten thousand million foolish questions would seem to set a new record.

The "greatest" country in the world, supposed to be the most intelligent, owns some tons of gold, called "worth" nine thousand million dollars.

We do not use the gold, or even invest part of it in adequate national defense, that would protect it. We are afraid some one may come, with better airplanes and submarines than ours, and steal it; so the government will dig a deep hole, far from the coast, put in it a huge safe, and hide away the gold lump, that is used only to impress the financial imagination of the world and keep foreigners from knocking down our currency.

Dolores Anne Diamond, only four, surprised teachers in a Schenectady kindergarten. She said the games for little children bored her, and she could recite the alphabet backward.

Dolores was moved to the first grade, and could have gone higher. She has the intelligence of a child of fourteen.

Usually it is better for a child to develop slowly and normally. The infant prodigy is usually dull later. Perhaps little Dolores will be an exception, like Mozart, and, at eighteen, as wise as Hypatia, with a happier ending.

Lloyd George, in spite of his seventy-two years, returns to active politics. He hates the "arid atmosphere of political controversy" and returns to active politics only because he believes that world conditions are growing worse, and "from the point of view of peace are worse than before 1914."

Miss Koutanova, Russian, twenty-one years old, jumped 25,426 feet from an airplane without oxygen apparatus and landed in a cabbage field after turning over four times before her parachute opened. She claims the female record.

Russia is teaching millions of young people to use parachutes, the first step in curing nervousness in flying. Here we have only a small handful of excellent pilots, but the masses of our population know as little about aviation as they do about "geometry in space."

Mr. Werner Kahn, district leader of "Hitler Youth," says Nazi doctrines have become Germany's real religion, and "the time must come when entry into the Hitler Youth organization will take the place now occupied by Catholic or Protestant confirmation." Furthermore, the young gentleman says, "I declare to all enemies of Hitler Youth that the fuhrer is our faith and national socialism is our religion."

Millions of us go through life getting little sunshine, rarely if ever looking at the stars, our interests not unlike that of the entomologically interesting tumblebug, that spends its life in the field, rolling little balls of manure into a burrow. He doesn't even realize that there is a sun, or stars, and many men are like him, although they may "own fine country."

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Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington.—It is slightly more than three months since President Roosevelt signed the congressional resolution appropriating five billion dollars for use by the administration in public works and public relief. To date, according to the records, less than half a billion dollars has been allocated for expenditure on agreed projects and of this sum approximately three hundred million dollars was turned over to the Civilian Conservation Corps, a going institution.

The slow motion of the administration in getting its public works relief program underway is giving birth to an immense amount of criticism. If one is to believe the undecurrent of discussion in Washington, it is giving more concern to the officials responsible for spending this vast sum of money in the recovery-reform effort of the New Deal. So many projects have been advanced and rejected in turn, so many new ideas have been brought forward and ballyhooed and so many false motions have been indulged in that Washington observers are rapidly reaching the conclusion that congress was correct when in debate, it was said the administration had no concrete plan for utilization of this vast fund.

To review the developments since April 8, when the President signed the appropriating resolution, is to say that conditions have been one continual round of confusion. First, it will be recalled the President sought to meet the wishes of congress as expressed in debate by relieving Secretary Ickes, public works administrator, of much of the responsibility and authority he held. This was accomplished by the new setup that was reported to you heretofore. Now, it seems, the new setup has failed to function and the bulk of the management of expenditures has settled down into the lap of Harry Hopkins, the relief administrator.

Mr. Ickes still has some authority. It apparently is enough to irk Mr. Hopkins. These two men differ widely in their views. Mr. Hopkins long has been looked upon as a reliever by profession; Mr. Ickes has attempted, insofar as he has been able, to employ practical methods in administration of his share of the funds.

Laying aside the personal equation which is best exemplified by the Ickes-Hopkins differences it must be said frankly that next to nothing has been accomplished. President Roosevelt has stated and reiterated that the expenditure program is getting underway satisfactorily, but the discussion among observers seems to show an alarming lack of co-ordination and of indecision.

One of the newest projects advanced, and it has just passed the stage of an executive order setting up a new agency, is the so-called National Youth Administration. This new alphabetical unit—the NYA—has received fifty million dollars to spend in helping boys and girls between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five. It is supposed to be a means of preventing idleness among the young people who are of the age during which, unless they are occupied, irresponsible tendencies develop.

In announcing the new program, the President departed from his previously announced intention of assisting only persons now on relief. Whether this departure means that he has tossed aside definitely the rule laid down last winter that the dole must go or whether this is to be an isolated exception to that rule, is not immediately determinable. It remains as a fact that the government's assistance under the NYA will be available to needy young men who are not on the dole as well as to those who are on relief.

Secretary Perkins, of the Labor department, said the plan had been worked out by her and her associates in the children's bureau. She figured that 2,500,000 would be eligible for assistance under the plan. Those to be helped will be selected by local volunteer committees, thus establishing in each community another agency subject to federal domination and federal guidance.

Succinctly, the scope of the NYA as outlined by Mr. Roosevelt includes: Finding employment in private industry for unemployed youths.

Training youths for industrial, technical and professional employment.

Providing for continued attendance of needy youths in high schools and colleges.

Providing work relief on projects to meet the needs of youth.

Miss Josephine Roche, an assistant secretary of the treasury, and Aubrey W. Williams, assistant to Administrator Hopkins, have been given sole responsibility for management of the latest alphabetical agency. The selection of Miss Roche was said by the President to have been in recognition of her long service in the social field and her thorough understanding of problems of the growing generations.

Notwithstanding the sincerity and the desires of the President to initiate a program that will be helpful, one hears much doubt expressed that success will be attained. In the minds of many students of governmental affairs

there are thoughts flitting back and forth inquiring whether it is possible for a central group like the federal government to arrange satisfactory methods or occupations for a population so far flung as our own. It is further doubted that sufficient flexibility can be worked into any program to permit of any genuine good coming from the expenditure of even so vast a sum as fifty million dollars.

Beyond that, I have heard it asked how the administration expects to find employment for unemployed youths in industry when late figures show a larger list of unemployed adults than obtained at this time a year ago.

High schools and colleges, of course, are available to provide the educational requirements forming one idea in the general program. Those youths who desire to continue their education certainly are deserving of help and the NYA offers a means to that end. It is too early to forecast what the requirements will be or what sort of rules will be laid down respecting applicants for educational assistance. But even the administration's most vigorous critics have omitted throwing any barbs at this feature of the NYA.

Almost simultaneously with the President's announcement of the NYA he made known that the way was clear for construction of what he said was the first group of non-federal projects under the public works section of the five billion dollar fund. He gave his approval to 63 projects, the total cost of which was figured at approximately twenty-one million dollars.

Each of the loans made in this allocation of funds was based on a grant of 45 per cent of the cost of the particular project by the community where the work is to be done. The federal government loans the other 55 per cent. In this way the cost to the government in most instances is expected to be held within the limitation of \$1.143 per man per year.

Some weeks ago the President figured out that the cost of no project in which the federal government put money should exceed an amount greater than \$1.143 for every man employed. This was designed to spread employment. But the rule thus far has been inoperative because not a single man has been put to work under any of these projects.

In the meantime, numerous and sundry other proposals for expending parts of the federal money have either been thrown overboard or have been held in abeyance pending further consideration. This is true of a gigantic housing program worked out by Secretary Ickes. It was planned there to spend \$250,000,000 and when it was announced a press statement was forthcoming from the Public Works Administration that hundreds of men would be offered jobs within a month, so far had the plans advanced.

Also, since April 8, nothing whatsoever has been done toward elimination of dangerous railroad grade crossings. I was told at the Interstate Commerce commission and again at the bureau of public roads that their plans were all ready to proceed with reduction of these highway traffic hazards and eliminate potential death traps where highways cross railroads. Something has blocked the effort in this direction, however, and as far as present information goes actual work on grade crossing elimination will not be started for the next several months.

While the administration is seeking to develop new projects to aid unemployment and relieve

Pet Scheme destruction, one of its **Rans Amuck** pet schemes appears to be running amuck.

I refer to the effort to transplant 200 Middle Western farm families to the Matanuska valley of Alaska. This colonization project was carried on with federal relief money and those families which were uprooted were taken to Alaska to find the end of the rainbow. According to activity around the Federal Relief Administration here it is made to appear that the end of the rainbow was, as usual, some distance further on. Certainly it was not in the Matanuska valley because a number of the families already have determined to quit and return to their home communities in the states.

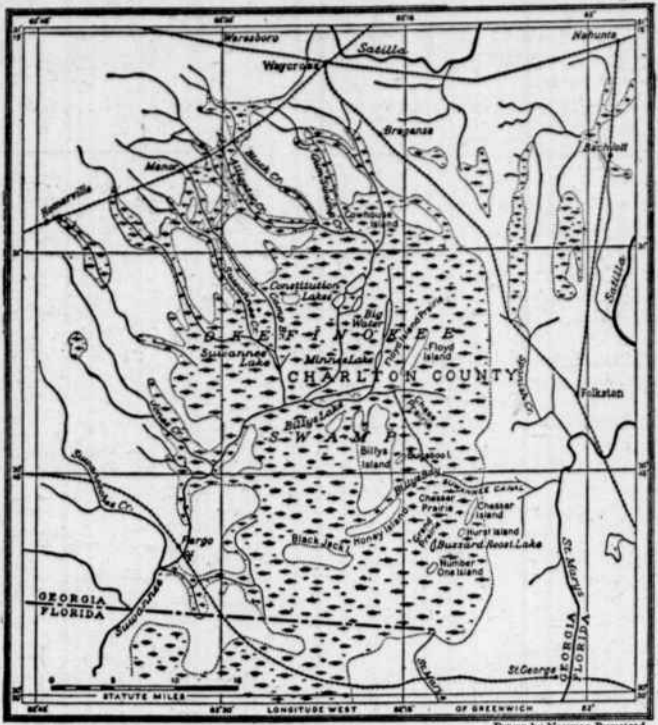
Members of congress who are acquainted with Alaskan conditions tell me that the Matanuska valley is probably the most fertile spot in continental United States. They hold to the conviction that almost any kind of food can be grown in the soil of that valley. But these men are under no illusions. They know the hardships that confront those settlers who were being planted there by the federal government in the hope of colonizing that area. Few of them, the house members assure me, can live there very long unless Uncle Sam is willing to spend millions in providing at least some of the modern conveniences of this day and age and supplying in addition means of transportation and communication. The word that comes direct from Matanuska colony to the Relief Administration shows, in my opinion, that the project was conceived and executed without any thought having been given to the practical problems to be met.

Good Fishing There.

More than thirty species of fishes inhabit the Okefinokee. Persons who love simple pan-fishing, with an old-fashioned rod and pole, find here their heart's content. At Swanee lake this sort of angling surpasses that in almost any other part of the country. When one considers that the lake is barely a quarter of a mile long, with an average width of perhaps 30 yards, a year's catch of more than 40,000 fish (recorded in 1925) is astounding.

Farther within the swamp, at Billys, Mines, and Buzzard Roost lakes, or on the Big Water or the Swanee canal, there is likewise rare fishing. The bulk of a day's catch with hook and line is made up of such basses as the warmouth, the "stump-knocker," and the "sand-flirter," with a goodly proportion of mudfish and catfish. Those who elect trolling are more apt to land

Okefinokee Swamp



Okefinokee Swamp, Mystery Land of Georgia.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—W.F.U. Service.

DOWN in the southeastern corner of Georgia lies the great Okefinokee swamp, a primeval wilderness rich in treasure for the modern biologist. Mystery and enchantment live in its coffee-colored waters, its moss-hung cypresses and sunlit piney woods.

The Okefinokee owes a great measure of its unique charm to its "prairies"—wide, unspoiled expanses filled in large part with a tropical abundance of aquatic plants and flanked with dense "bays" of stately cypress. On these one may delight his soul amid scenes of unearthly loveliness that have changed virtually not at all since the Seminole warriors poled their dugouts over them. The Okefinokee prairies are not land, but water!

In these morasses are many areas of open water, varying from lakes a quarter of a mile in diameter to "alligator holes" a rod in width.

The snowy blossoms of the white waterlily gladden many acres of the deeper water, and the golden, globular flowers of yellow pond-lilies, or "bonnets," glow in a setting of huge green leaves. In the shallows yellow-eyed grass, its tall stems swaying, forms a sea of pleasant color.

The small pitcherplant is hardly true to its name on the Okefinokee prairies, for its spotted greenish tubes reach a yard into the air—a height unheard of elsewhere; the parasol-like flowers of greenish gold, each on a separate scape, stand a little below the summit of the leaves.

Another plant is the maiden cane, which forms dense, yard-high beds. Among its sheltering stems and leaves the least bittern, the swamp rice rat, and the Florida water rat build their nests. In late summer, as a boat pushes by a bed of maiden cane, a host of katydids will fly out and astound the newcomer by plunging into the water and disappearing. These diving katydids belong to a peculiar species first described from the Okefinokee.

Resort of Hunters and Trappers.

For generations swamp hunters have pushed over these prairie waters, standing up in their slight boats and bending rhythmically with graceful thrusts of their long poles. The skilled boatman is able to make better progress over the prairies than the bear he chases. Old hunters knew well how to drive a deer out of a prairie head in the direction of a waiting companion. In winter the trapper camps for weeks at a time in these heads, tending his line of traps and taking the pelts of raccoon, otter, wildcat and opossum.

To pass from the sparkling sunshine of the prairies into the gloom of the adjoining cypress bays is a striking experience. The huge trees, buttressed by "knees," stand in close ranks in a foot or so of water. Their green crowns, 80 feet or more overhead, shut out all but a few stray beams of sunshine, causing even at midday a sort of twilight. Here and there a winding channel or "run" permits the hunter to push his tiny boat between the tree trunks; but in the greater part of the cypress bays there is tall, dense undergrowth that makes even foot travel a slow and arduous undertaking. The bear, having the double advantage of bulky strength and a tough hide, is the only large animal that can readily and rapidly break through such a tangle.

Primitive Life of the People.

For generations the sturdy, self-sufficient, and gifted people of the Okefinokee have led a rather isolated and primitive existence, some of them on islands within the swamp and others along its borders. They represent some of the purest Anglo-Saxon stock left in our country, though a few of the families have a slight mixture of French Huguenot and even Seminole Indian blood.

In ancestry, speech, folkways, and general social ways there is a marked affinity between the residents of the Okefinokee and those of the Appalachian mountains. In each case there has been comparative isolation, tending to preserve the cultural heritage from Britain of several centuries ago. The picturesque regional vernacular contains various elements representing survivals from the Elizabethan age that have dropped out of general American usage.

The old-fashioned square dance, or "trotic," still holds sway here as a leading form of social recreation. The fiddle, the handclap, the footbeat, and the "calling of the set" by the leader all lend their aid to the rhythmic performance. The late fall days—the season of "hog-killin' an' cane-grindin'"—see these social expressions at their height.

U. S. AGENTS SEEK TO SOLVE STRANGE GEM TRANSACTIONS

Scotland Yard and Other Foreign Police Are Aiding in Investigation.

New York.—Sixty star federal "G" men are digging into the ramifications of the international jewel-theft and recovery ring which has stolen millions of dollars' worth of gems in recent years, and bribed officials.

Scotland Yard and the German, French and Italian police are co-operating, in addition to the detectives of nearly every large city in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Jewelry stolen in one country frequently turns up thousands of miles away.

Sitting in the center of the excitement is Noel C. Saffa, mystery man of the diamond-and-ruby world, who as a private detective has recovered nearly two million dollars' worth of stolen jewelry.

New Federal Law. It was the passage of a new federal law, making it a crime to transport stolen property from one state to another, which resulted in the campaign to wipe out the jewel-theft racket.

Fantastic beyond belief are the operations of the jewel-theft ring, according to Adams. He said:

"The gang sometimes goes out and buys up entire communities—the police, the district attorney and the courts. It is easy to understand how they can do it in small towns, for the value of a single necklace is often greater than the entire pay roll of the officials of the community."

First, he says, the jewels which are to be stolen are located, and the thieves make certain they are in a "right town." They contact political chiefs who control police, and the prosecutor's office in some cases.

Avoid Murder. They always try to avoid committing murder, for that causes such a sensation that they are arrested sometimes despite their "pull."

After the jewels are taken, the thieves lie low for a while. Then they contact a trustworthy man who will get in touch with the insurance companies, or with some detective or adjuster. Adams added:

"The insurance companies are always willing to pay a reward running between 10 and 15 per cent of the insured value."

Adams cast some light on a number of thefts in "impossible" situations—such as from a locked apartment, or the loss of jewels while traveling. In some cases the person purposely "loses" his jewelry so as to collect insurance.

Auto Jack Is Used to Help Man's Broken Back

San Antonio, Texas.—A common automobile jack is a useful surgical instrument in the treatment of broken back, Dr. Sim Driver of Dallas told the Texas Surgical society here.

A person suffering from a broken back, Doctor Driver explained, is placed on a frame of metal splints with his feet tied down and a weight attached to his head.

An automobile jack is placed beneath the frame and the patient's back and slowly raised to the level of his extremities. Thus the ligaments of the backbone are enabled to draw the fractured pieces of vertebra into place and the patient can be placed in a plaster cast, the surgeon said.

Dr. Robert Moore, associate professor of surgery, told of a method of eliminating pain in heart ailments by severing a certain nerve.

Ghouls Rob Graves of Pioneers of California

San Jose, Calif.—Evidence that ghouls have been systematically looting the historic old Spanish cemetery at Almaden, one-time site of world-famous quicksilver mines, was discovered.

Several open graves were found with headstones destroyed and fences knocked down. Sheriff George Lyle has been asked to take steps to apprehend the grave robbers, who evidently are seeking jewels and other possessions buried with their owners in the old Spanish days.

The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of R. Quiroposano, who died May 30, 1876. A pepper tree has grown directly through the grave, which is surrounded by a fence, and now towers high above it.

Absent-Minded Motorist Smashes Wrong Motor Car

Kokomo, Ind.—Guy Lawrence, Miami, parked and locked his car in the business district here, and when he returned he found two automobiles, identical in appearance.

He could not remember his license number and picked what he believed was his.

When the door lock wouldn't respond to his key he went to a locksmith and had another made. When that one failed, he picked up a stone and threw it through the windshield.

Then he discovered his mistake. He reported to police, paid for a new windshield, and set himself to the task of memorizing his license number.

Student Never Absent Logan, Ohio.—Myel Skiver has gone through his eight years of grade school at Haydensville without a day's absence.

LEADS IN KINDERGARTENS

Public school kindergarten instruction in Pennsylvania received its start through a school conducted at the Centennial exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. There are more than 500 public kindergartens in the state with more than 35,000 pupils and in excess of 500 teachers.



Yum! Yum!
Cosmetics put young heads on old shoulders.



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