

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field  
FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington.—Black rust in the Northwest, particularly in the Dakotas and Minnesota, and to a lesser extent—due to less rain—in Montana, is going to upset a lot of AAA calculations on wheat this year. For example, all government figures so far are very misleading, in that they estimate bushels of wheat, but take no account of the fact that due to the peculiar type of ravaging black rust effects, the same number of bushels of wheat will produce less flour.

Conservative estimates in Minneapolis and St. Paul for example, are that from 40 to 50 per cent of the wheat crop expected in the whole Northwest will be unmillable. That is, it would not, in the normal course of events, be ground into flour. This is complicated further by the processing taxes.

The processing tax is based on the bushel of wheat that goes into the flour mill. Now a bushel of wheat which has been affected by black rust will produce only a fraction of the flour that a normal bushel of wheat would. In ordinary times, this would be carefully calculated, and would be reflected in a much lower price paid for that wheat by the miller. But the fact that the processing tax is based on the bushel of wheat, not on the barrel of flour, upsets normal calculations.

Black rust strikes the wheat on one side—always on the southern side. If the weather is dry, it does not spread around the kernel. If the weather is damp it does. It makes a ring all around, and as most of the nourishment comes up near the circumference of the kernel, instead of through the center, the food of the kernel is choked off. This means that in a bushel of rust-infested wheat, there is an unusually large percentage of bran, and an unusually small percentage which can be ground into white flour.

### Canada Also Hit

The duty on wheat from Canada is 42 cents a bushel. Canada also suffered from black rust this year, but Canada has a tremendous carry-over—considerably more than 100,000,000 bushels, which is not affected by black rust. Moreover, the government of Canada has decided to liquidate this wheat, which it has been holding in much the same way that the United States government held cotton, and as the Brazilian government held coffee.

This hold-over Canadian wheat, experts say, can easily pay the 42 cents duty, and the processing tax, and still be a bargain for Minneapolis millers in contrast with about one-half of the northwestern wheat. This is due to the complication of the processing tax plus the fact that half or more of the northwestern wheat assays such a small proportion of flour.

Predictions by experts are that at least 50,000,000 bushels of this hold-over Canadian wheat will be bought by United States millers, and probably nearer 100,000,000 bushels.

The rust-infested wheat thus driven out will have to be sold as cattle feed. But there enters another complication. There is already in the Northwest a great plenty of cattle feed. All forage crops were good this year, due to the very moisture which hurt the wheat. Forage crops, due to their bulk as compared with their value, cannot be hauled economically for long distances. Which means that if they are to be consumed at all, they must be consumed in the northwestern states.

From all of which experts predict that there will be tremendous buying of young pigs for fattening, and young cattle, in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana, this year, and that while the production of beef may not affect prices before 1937, the price of pork will be forced down by next summer, no matter what the AAA may do.

### Atlantic-Gulf Canal

Aside entirely from the question of whether the construction of the Atlantic-Gulf canal across northern Florida will rule the fresh water supply of that portion of the state south of the proposed ditch down to Lake Okechobee, the proposition is really on all fours with the much talked about Passamaquoddy.

It has been considered for many years. Always it has been rejected, after a study by engineers. Always the reason has been the same. It is entirely practical as an engineering project—indeed it presents few real difficulties from that angle, if this contamination of Florida's fresh water supply is warded to one side. But is it economically sound? The answer has always been "No."

Careful study, even this time, produced a report to President Roosevelt that if the total volume of business which might be expected should materialize, still the proposition would not pay interest on its cost and operating expenses. There is no hair line about this. The experts have no doubt about it whatsoever.

angle. Three-fourths of the present tonnage moving from Gulf ports to North Atlantic American ports, and across the Atlantic (tonnage for South Atlantic ports, of course would not use it) consists at present of oil. No one is in a position to state how long this tonnage will continue so to move. Oil fields now shipping by way of the Gulf may continue shipping for many years. On the other hand, their production may slump any time. Also it is always possible that pipe lines may be found more economical for moving the product.

So that no one knows at what moment three-fourths of the existing tonnage that this canal might expect may be cut off.

### Can't Foretell Tonnage

Against this the contention is made in defense that no one can foretell what business may arise to provide plenty of tonnage for the canal. It is quite possible. Many railroads doing a large business today, and serving very real needs, were constructed to accommodate traffic which has long since disappeared—would never have been built if their builders, and the investors who provided the construction costs, had suspected that the traffic they were built to handle might evaporate.

The immediate pressure for the canal, of course, is to provide some useful work for idle men—something that will not be mere boondoggling. On the theory that this work may be useful—may even prove profitable for reasons not now realized—the work is justified by its defenders. And it is a real job. The canal will be 195 miles long. It involves moving almost twice as much dirt as was involved in digging the Panama canal—slides and all. Though on account of the difference in terrain, climate, etc., the expense will not be anything like as great.

### About Politics

It is an old saying in politics that the man "out in front" in the race for the Presidential nomination of a big party—six months before the convention—is bound to be killed off. The theory is that all the other candidates are shooting at him. Also that the public is highly changeable, and forgets easily.

There are exceptions to all rules, as evidenced in this case by the present incumbent of the White House. Franklin D. Roosevelt, was well out in front for the Democratic nomination for 18 months prior to the 1932 Democratic convention. He sprang into the lead when he was re-elected governor of New York, by a tremendous majority, in November, 1930. His boom defied all traditions by staying there, despite all sorts of ups and downs, right through the whole period. To use a racing term, his boom was never headed. There was never a day from November, 1930, until his nomination in June, 1932, when fair betting odds would not have favored him against any other candidate. Or for that matter, against any two other candidates.

Politicians of both parties are wondering if an exception will come this time in the Republican party. At present the two leaders, so far out in front that it seems hardly worth while to figure who is third and who is fourth, are Senator William E. Borah and Col. Frank Knox, publisher of the Chicago Daily News.

Almost any politician, familiar with national politics, will tell his friends confidentially that if either of the two is nominated, it will be Knox.

### As to Borah

That is one of the reasons the recent poll of Republican local leaders by Robert H. Lucas was so interesting. Apparently these local leaders thought Borah would make a very strong candidate in their communities, whether they personally would prefer another type or not.

As to his age, Borah is in marvelous condition, considering his seventy years. Friends are fond of saying he has all the Mormon virtues. By which they mean he uses no tea, coffee, tobacco or alcohol. He is a sparing eater, and has kept up his horseback riding, even in Washington. He insists on his beauty sleep every night, cares nothing about society, never subjects himself to any undue strains. For example, even when he was tremendously interested in filibusters, he never made the long, grueling, time-killing speeches for which some other senators are famous.

All his life he has been a lone wolf in politics. In the senate he has never been a cog in the machine. He would never be "regular."

The strength of Colonel Knox, as shown in various polls, is simply revolutionary from a political standpoint. One has to go back to Horace Greely for a precedent, and even that is not a good one.

## Fourteen-Year-Old Wife Has Two Babies



Mrs. Jeanette Jones, fourteen years old, wife of a Detroit truck driver, gave birth to her second baby, Barbara Anne, recently. The other, a son, Teddy Vernon, is one year old. Mrs. Jones' home was in Kentucky, but she moved to Detroit 10 years ago.

## Long's Murderer Was Prominent Young Surgeon

Portrait of Dr. Carl A. Weiss, Jr., of Baton Rouge, the brilliant young surgical specialist who assassinated Senator Huey P. Long. Doctor Weiss was the leader of the anti-Long fac-



tion in St. Landry's parish. Immediately after he fired the bullet that killed the senator he was himself shot to death by members of Long's bodyguard. Some insist Dr. Weiss was picked by lot to kill Senator Long.

## "G" Men Go Through Their Daily Dozen



"G" men must keep physically fit, for their duties frequently are strenuous. Here are a number of these Department of Justice men doing setting up exercises on the roof gymnasium of the headquarters in Washington.

## Joe Heaves 'Em Out From Deepest Fields

Joe Di Maggio, San Francisco outfielder, bares the arm that has won



him fame in the Pacific Coast league. He sends the ball in with a speed and accuracy that falls all attempts to pick up an extra base.

## Going After Old Al Capone Taxes



Joseph Lawrence, administrator of taxes and penalties of the Department of Justice, is pictured at his desk poring over documents which furnished information for the assessment of \$120,000 in old liquor taxes against Al Capone and some of the members of the old Chicago syndicate with which he was connected in the days of prohibition. A matter of some 19,000,000 odd barrels of high power beer, seized by authorities between 1921 and 1932, furnished the basis of the assessment.

## She Ran Aground, but No Life Was Lost



This is the Morgan liner Dixie which, with 250 passengers and a crew of 140 aboard, lashed in a terrific hurricane, went aground on a reef off the Florida Keys, about 50 miles south of Miami. The Dixie was New York bound from New Orleans. Coast guard cutters and other vessels went to the rescue and everyone was taken off to safety. The Dixie's officers and crew won high praise for their gallant behavior.

## STAR DUST Movie-Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

HELEN VINSON returned from Europe looking prettier than ever, dressed in a smart brown suit, carrying a sable scarf, and trying to stave off the inquiries of newspaper men about whether or not she is going to marry Fred Perry, the Englishman who is amateur tennis champion of the world.

He went down the bay to meet her, couldn't wait till her ship docked to see her. They went into a huddle, but apparently didn't decide to announce their engagement at once. Pity a poor movie star who can't even make up her mind to marry a man—or not to marry him—without having a crowd of reporters right on her heels!

Miss Vinson wouldn't say yes, and wouldn't say no; she just asked for time. But she'll be at Forest Hills when Perry defends his title, and maybe she'll make an announcement after that's over.

Madge Evans returned on the same boat with the lovely Vinson, with nothing of special importance to say. By the way, other girls might take a lesson from her. When she was staging her come-back she studied with a famous dancing teacher in New York, day after day; she knew that just being pretty isn't enough. Nowadays a girl has to stand well, walk well, do everything well, in fact, or she wakes up to find that some other pretty girl has stepped into the role she wanted.

Bela Lugosi, "The Vampire," and his wife are new arrivals in New York, and nobody'd ever suspect, just meeting him in everyday clothes and without make-up, that he can be such a blood-chiller on the screen.

And, speaking of thrillers, "China Seas" certainly offers plenty of excitement. A storm at sea, an attack by pirates, Wallace Beery in the role of villain—and a torture scene that makes timid females look away. It seems as if, since "The Lives of a Bengal Lancer" brought money rolling into box offices all over the country, no picture is complete without a torture scene.

Remember Morten Downey, who not so awfully long ago was one of radio's headliners? He's backing a new restaurant—a chop house, no less—and stage, screen and radio folk are flocking to it, while Downey and his wife, the pretty Barbara Bennett, sit back and hope the place will be a success. Since Jack Dempsey has made such a success of the eating place that bears his name, (and don't go there, my children, unless you're prepared to spend plenty!) everybody's yearning to open a restaurant.

Robert Montgomery may have started something. Since he returned from Europe he's been seen about in a green hat—and a good, bright green it is, too. A well-known hat manufacturer is turning them out in purple, blue and red as well, and the first thing we know all Hollywood may be wearing hats in these vivid hues. Maybe it's all a plot on the part of the hat makers; Holly started the rage for going hatless, and perhaps this scheme will break it up. It's had the men who make hats for other men pretty worried.

Norma Shearer certainly started a lot of people when she arrived in New York a few days ago. She didn't try to duck the newspaper reporters and camera men (so many stars pretend to, you know and how annoyed they are if they succeed!) but just got off the train as if she'd been any other young woman arriving with her husband. Looking very pretty, indeed, she crossed the station, got into a car and drove away.

People who were waiting to see her and get her autograph were so surprised that, by the time they'd caught their breath, Norma was on her way. They might have known that she'd behave like that; she's always perfectly natural.

Katherine Hepburn has been going places around Hollywood, and thanks to the boyish haircut she got for "Sylvia Scarlett" and the boyish clothes she's been wearing to go with it innocent bystanders have been thinking that she was just one more good looking boy.

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Will Rogers carried a special insurance policy for \$2,500,000 . . . Shirley Temple seems to have switched her affections from James Dunn to John Boles; he's her leading man in "Curley Top" and she'll have him again in "The Littlest Rebel" . . . Bette Davis is going to appear opposite Leslie Howard again, in "The Petrified Forest," the screen version of his latest stage play . . . Phil Baker has been chosen to take the broadcasting spot left vacant by Will Rogers' death. At \$5,000 a week, they say.

### Housewife's Idea Day

To Wash Walls  
For best results, wash your walls in this way, provided they have a good, oil-paint finish: Use three cloths, wash first one as dry as possible from light soap suds. The second one, which you will use for rinsing, wring from clear water. The third, have dry for wiping immediately each small portion washed. Use an up-and-down motion.

THE HOUSEWIFE  
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### Spinsters Pensioned

Spinsters over sixty-five years of age in England are eligible for a pension of approximately \$2.50 per week. There are upward of 2,500,000 of them in the country.

### Experts Select QUAKER OATS FOR DIONNE 'QUINTS'

With the world of food science to guide them, the experts in charge of the precious Quintuplets select Quaker Oats for their cereal, even before their first birthday! Is Vitamin B for keeping fit does children such a world of good.

1c worth of Quaker Oats equals 3 cakes of Fresh Yeast

Quaker and Mother's Oats are the same

So Beware  
Breaking stone isn't what it's cracked up to be.

### KC BAKING POWDER

Manufactured by baking powder Specialists who make nothing but baking powder—under supervision of expert chemists.

ALWAYS  
Halfpenn  
Dependable

Same price today as 45 years ago  
25 ounces for 25c

FULL PACK  
NO SLACK FILLING

WNU-4

SINGLE ROOM AND PRIVATE BATH

A new hotel on Grand Street & Main east of Grand Central Station.

HOVEN BUILDING