

The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington—How important a political issue can be made out of the falling off in exports of American farm products and the increase in imports of staple food supplies is the latest question on which political observers here are focusing their attention. How much of the current situation is due to natural causes or conditions outside of governmental control and how much to political measures, is the root of the argument.

The facts as Washington gets them are something like this:

The oversupply of surplus wheat which has been depressing the world market for several years, has been practically consumed, resulting in higher prices. The world's normal carryover of surplus wheat is about 300,000,000 bushels. All the reports which the Department of Agriculture regards as reliable indicate that the surplus for the year to come will be just about this normal carryover. Of this the United States crop of 1936, amounted to 600,000 bushels, and the supply of old wheat carried over, 125,000,000 bushels, will leave an American surplus of about 100,000,000 bushels.

Wheat consumption is increasing all over the world and this fact, coupled with the world-wide shortage, will tend to keep prices up. Of course, it is much too early to forecast the Argentine and Australian crops, where it is now mid-winter or early spring.

In the meantime, American wheat imports are up this year over last year. These imports are for special grades of wheat in demand by millers, which are normally grown in the Northwest and of which the crop has been short for the past six years. In the first six months of this year official figures show that 19,805,566 bushels of wheat were imported from abroad, compared with 12,829,047 bushels in the corresponding period of 1935.

Corn and the Drought

Official Washington is more concerned with the corn crop than with the wheat crop. If the drought continues to the middle of this month, the Department of Agriculture's estimate is that the corn crop will be less than half of the normal 2,500,000,000 bushels, and even with good weather and plenty of rain, the corn crop will be about 800,000,000 bushels short of the normal 2,500,000,000.

So far this year imports of corn have been less than one-third of what they were in the first half of 1935, 5,682,215 bushels against 17,620,195 the same period last year. There has been a sharp decline in the importation of oats and of butter.

On the other side of the scale, exports of wheat have dropped to practically nothing, though cotton exports have been higher on the average in 1936 than in 1935.

It is this falling off of agricultural exports and the rise in agricultural imports which gives the politicians of both parties concern. The opponents of the Administration assert that exports have fallen because the Government has created an artificial scarcity and an artificial price level, while imports are rising not only because of this scarcity but because of the Administration's reciprocal tariff policies.

Administration supporters say that so far as tariff influence goes the policy of the previous administrations made it difficult for foreign customers to get dollars with which to buy American products, and that the increase in importation is due to the destruction by drought of crops which the Government had sought to adjust to the situation caused by the loss of foreign markets.

A Seller's Market

Whatever the cause, it is the judgment of economic experts here that farmers and all other American producers are now in the fortunate position of having what is called a "seller's market." Not only agricultural surpluses but commodity sur-

pluses of all kinds have been greatly reduced, while the demand for consumer goods is increasing. This is particularly noticeable in clothing and furniture industries, and something like the beginning of a genuine building boom seems to be under way. There is no surplus labor in the industrial market, the slack having been taken up by the Government's WPA and CCC activities, so that the trend of wages is upward.

The outcome of the internal warfare in the ranks of organized labor between the A. F. of L. and John L. Lewis' C. I. O., which means "Committee on Industrial Organization," becomes more acute with each side trying to get some sort of a commitment of backing from the Administration. Miss Perkins, the Secretary of Labor, is keeping on neutral ground in this situation.

Organized labor is not satisfied with the fuller explanation which Gov. Landon gave, in his letter to Norman Thomas, the Socialist leader, clarifying his position in regard to labor. The attitude of union labor leaders is that a "company union" that is, one confined to the employees of a single company, is something not to be tolerated, no matter how free the employees may be left by their employers to organize as they see fit. Gov. Landon has not denounced company unions, though fully conceding the right of union organizers to use any form of persuasion short of coercion to induce workers to join their unions.

For the first time since President Wilson went to France to negotiate the peace treaty a President of the United States while in office set foot on foreign soil, when President Roosevelt paid a visit to the ceremony of Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada. American newspaper men who accompanied the President were glad to have furnished to them an English translation of the part of his speech which he delivered in French for the benefit of the people of Quebec, whose official language is still that of France.

ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM

Farmers who have been set back by the drought will find two changes in the soil-improvement program especially helpful, according to Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College.

One change allows them to classify as soil-conserving any land seeded to soil-conserving crops up to September 1, provided no soil-depleting crops are harvested from it in 1936. This will enable many growers to increase their soil-building allowance. The allowance, the dean explained, is not a payment; it is a figure showing the maximum amount of soil-building payments a grower may earn, and is based on the acreage of soil-conserving crops.

This change will also help farmers meet the minimum requirements for soil-conserving acreage as well as requirements for new seedings of soil-conserving crops this year.

In addition, sowed corn, plowed or disked under, and spring seeded small grains grown with or immediately followed by a legume will be counted as soil-conserving this year. They had been classified as depleting crops.

The other change permits soil-building payments to be made for the seeding of perennial grasses, or growing green manure crops, on land where there has been a failure of a legume or perennial grass seeded earlier in the year.

For example, a producer who seeded a field to lespedeza or clover, but failed to get a crop, may carry out an additional practice by seeding alfalfa or turning under a green manure crop on the same field in August or September. He would receive payment for both practices.

However, his soil-building payments could not exceed the maximum amount of his allowance as determined by his acreage of soil-conserving crops.

Edgecombe county farmers whose tobacco and cotton crops were badly hurt by a recent hail storm have been urged to make the maximum diversion to soil-conserving crops. They still have time to plant conserving crops, the county agent said.

Girl, 17, Admits Killing Mother with Hatchet



NEW YORK—Gladys McKnight, 17, and her 18-year-old chorister sweetheart, Donald Wichtman (above), revolved this populace, hardened to brutal crimes, in the confessed murder of the girl's mother, Donald holding the mother while Gladys battered her down and to death with a hatchet. It was all over a trivial quarrel because Gladys had to get an early supper for herself so she might play tennis with Donald. They say the mother had a knife in her hand.

A VISIT TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

By Carolyn Dowling
Washington, D. C., July 27, 1936.

From Boone, North Carolina to Washington, D. C. by way of the famous Skyline Drive, through the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, is not only colossal in beauty, but awe-inspiring. Natural Bridge is a scene never to be forgotten and shows the powerful work of Nature.

Washington is a city with a population of a half-million people; the government itself employs approximately two hundred and fifty thousand people. The Capital of our country is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and is situated on the historic Potomac river. It is the center of activity and the mecca of tourists from all parts of the land.

A visit to the important buildings includes the Capitol, which houses Congress, our law-making bodies, the Senate and House of Representatives; the President's room, with the gorgeous mirrors and candelabra; the rare paintings; the crypt, which contains the original casket of George Washington, the rotunda, or an immense circular hall from which you see into the shell of the dome, National Statuary Hall, which contains the memorials contributed by the several states; the Senate office building; the two house office buildings; the magnificent Library of Congress, whose reading room is the second largest in the world and wherein is contained the original Declaration of Independence safely tucked away in a case of gold, protected by a glass cover; Folger Shakespearean Library which contains H. C. Folger's collection of Shakespeareana; the new twelve million dollar marble Supreme Court building of Corinthian style, over which Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes presides; the White House, home of our great President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt; the Bureau of Engraving and Printing; the buildings of the Departments of Congress, Justice, Treasury, Agriculture, Interior, Labor, Archives, Army, Navy and new Postoffice are all of the finest architecture.

Places which have a particular artistic appeal are the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institute, National Museum, Botanical Garden, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Arlington, with its memorial amphitheatre and Unknown Soldier's Grave, D. A. R. Memorial, Pan-American Union building, the many parks with their famous statues and monuments. The renowned Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington, was named in honor of Admiral Vernon by his brother, Lawrence Washington in 1743. George inherited the estate and lived there from 1759 until 1799. The mansion is located on the Virginia shore of the Potomac river, sixteen miles south of Washington and has been restored to the likeness of Washington's day by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. There is a feeling of reverence as one enters the sacred home of a person so dear to the hearts of all true Americans. The magnificence of the furnishings, the beauty of the gardens, the view of the river from the piazza and the gorgeous setting of the home are indescribable. As you approach the Tomb of Washington, you are aware of a strange silence, hats are removed and heads are bowed. Forty members of the Washington and Custic families rest within the vault.

Alexandria, Virginia lies midway between Washington and Mount Vernon and is famous because it is the birthplace of Washington, Christ Church, frequented by Washington and his family and the Carlyle House, of Revolutionary fame, are located there.

The old Ford Theatre, where Lincoln was shot, and the house where he was taken across the street, are preserved. They contain many interesting writings and memorials pertaining to Lincoln.

STATE INCREASES PAY OF TEACHERS

Salaries ranging from \$112.50 down to \$68.75 per month for teachers holding certificates in classes A, B, and C were ordered for the 1936-37 school year by the state school commission in its regular session.

The commission voted to increase the schedules of pay for teachers and principals by 25 per cent over the schedules in effect on January 1, 1935, to put into effect the increase authorized by the 1935 legislature.

Lloyd Griffin, secretary of the commission said about \$17,700,000 would be set aside for instructional service next school year, as compared with \$16,600,000 for the past year.

Due to possible advancement of many teachers' certificates by summer school work, he said he could only guess at the percentages under each schedule but figures 70 per cent would be "A," 15 per cent "B," 10 per cent "C" and 5 per cent elementary "A" and "B" and non-standard.

Salary schedules for principals, he said had not been figured yet on the new basis. Last year they ranged

from \$282 monthly down to \$114 and a 4.16 per cent increase will be applied.

The total cost of operation of the schools on the state standard last year was \$20,655,000, Griffin said, which was \$57,000 more than the appropriation. The difference was taken from the contingency and emergency fund.

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