

News Review of Current Events the World Over

St. Lawrence Seaway Treaty Ready for Investigation by Borah—Dictatorship Decreed for Prussia—Great Railway Merger Plan.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

UNITED STATES and Canada have signed the treaty for construction of the great St. Lawrence seaway, which is to cost in the neighborhood of \$800,000,000, but the pact must be ratified by congress and the dominion parliament before becoming effective. Ratification is probable but by no means certain. There are various parts of the treaty to which grave objections have been raised, notably those relating to division of power to be developed, and withdrawal of water from Lake Michigan for the Chicago sanitary canal. These and all other phases of the pact will be investigated by a senate committee headed by Senator Borah of Idaho. The inquiry will not start until August.



W. D. Herridge

The treaty, which had been under negotiation for eleven years, was signed by Secretary of State Stimson for the United States and Minister William D. Herridge for Canada. By its terms the seaway is to be constructed under the supervision of a commission to be known as the St. Lawrence International rapids section commission. Five members are to be appointed by each country and the work is to be carried on free from governmental red tape and on a business basis. The commissioners will not have the right to direct construction of the power plants to develop 2,200,000 horse power, although they can coordinate these with the seaway. They can order deferred any works. When their job is done, they cease to exist as a commission.

PRESIDENT HOOVER signed the relief act but still had to complete his plans for reorganization of the Reconstruction Finance corporation which is to handle the huge fund. In doing this he had to decide on successors to Eugene Meyer, governor of the federal reserve board, and Paul Bestor, farm loan commissioner, whose retirement as directors of the corporation was made mandatory by the measure.

The corporation itself decided to discard red tape to expedite loans from the \$300,000,000 for state relief of destitution and \$322,000,000 for public works, the latter including \$132,000,000 which may be used to match state highway expenditures. More than two-thirds of the \$300,000,000 sum will be applied for immediately.

POLITICAL riots and murders in Prussia resulted in the establishment of a dictatorship for that German state and the declaration of martial law in Berlin and the province of Brandenburg. In three weeks more than a hundred persons had been killed and 1,200 wounded in the pre-election campaign encounters, which were mainly between Hitler's Nazis and the Communists. President Von Hindenburg therefore issued the necessary emergency decree and Chancellor Von Papen became virtual dictator of Prussia, naming Mayor Franz Bracht of Essen as chief assistant. When Prussian Minister of the Interior Severing declared he would yield only to force, the decree of martial law was issued. Premier Braun and Severing were removed from the Prussian ministry. Open air political meetings had already been forbidden throughout the reich.

That Germany faces revolution is seen in the flat threat by Hitler that if his Nazi party does not win control of the reichstag in the coming elections it will forcibly seize control of the government and arrest all Socialist and Communist leaders. According to an Amsterdam newspaper, Gen. Kurt von Schleicher, minister of defense, will co-operate with Hitler. The general, it has been recognized for some time, is planning to make himself eventually the actual ruler of Germany.

IN ONE of its most important decisions the interstate commerce commission approved a plan for consolidation of all eastern railroads, except those of New England, into four great systems. The plan will probably be accepted by the lines concerned, though it does not suit them in certain respects.

The four systems will be known as the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Baltimore & Ohio, and the Chesapeake & Ohio-Nickel Plate. The systems thus created will embrace 57,000 miles of rail lines—300 roads, though many of them are already operated by the large trunk lines.

The commissions' ruling caused an immediate reaction approaching jubilation in railroad circles, which hailed the plan as the most helpful factor in that industry in 12 years. In fact, as the report pointed out, the leading railroads have received virtually all that they have asked for in order to work out a new plan of economies.

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GETTING into action rather more swiftly than their rivals, the Republican campaign leaders at Chicago headquarters started the preliminary work for the election of 12 United States senators in the central states. The plans are under the direction of Senator L. J. Dickinson of Iowa, keynoter in the national convention. "We are going to concentrate on the senatorial fights," he said. "Where a senator is stronger in his state than the President, we'll expect him to carry the whole ticket, and vice versa."



Sen. Dickinson

Senator Dickinson said the prohibition question would be the principal issue in many states, the people having to decide whether the Eighteenth amendment shall be repealed outright, as the Democrats desire, or replaced by another amendment giving congress control of the liquor traffic, the Republican solution.

On August 11 President Hoover will be officially notified of his nomination and will deliver his speech of acceptance at the White House. He has decided not to make a western trip this summer, but will send Vice President Curtis to represent him at the opening of the Olympic games in Los Angeles.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT, having ended his short vacation cruise, was back in Albany attending to business and laying out his campaign plans with National Chairman Farley. The latter gentleman announced the campaign would be run through the state organizations. There will be a campaign committee at the Roosevelt headquarters in New York, but it will assist and co-operate with the state organizations rather than attempt to direct them, Farley said. There will be only one national headquarters, located in New York. The money will be raised by a special committee not yet named. Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming will again be at the head of the women's organization.

Mrs. Roosevelt, who says she has always been "a profound dry," has publicly declared her belief that the Eighteenth amendment has not worked successfully and should be repealed.

THOUGH the members of the bonus army in Washington are rapidly leaving for their homes, taking advantage of the free fares offered by the government, those who remained, especially the radicals, were threatening more trouble in the form of a picketing of the White House. A promise to do this if congress were not called in special session to pay the bonus was made by Urban LeDoux ("Mr. Zero"). Brig. Gen. Smedley D. Butler, former marine, projected himself into the picture by giving the veterans a characteristically vigorous talk urging them to stay right there and praising their behavior.

"They are trying to get you to go home," he said. "You ought to keep some one here in the front line trenches. You have as much right to a lobby in Washington as the United States Steel corporation. Don't take a step backward. Remember, as soon as you pull down the camp flag this movement will evaporate. Those of you who do go home, vote to kick h— out of your enemies."

THE economic conference of the British empire opened in Ottawa on Thursday with many of the empire's most eminent men in attendance. Stanley Baldwin, lord president of the British council, leader of his delegation, said that this is the most important conference in history for two reasons:

"First, Britain never before has been in a position to negotiate with a free hand from the electorate, and, second, never before was the trade of the world so depressed."

CONGRESSMAN J. B. SHANNON'S house committee inquiring into the inroads of the government into business in competition with private concerns opened its hearings in Kansas City, his home town, and first received briefs from many organizations.

M. W. Borders, in presenting the data assembled by the Federation of American Business, which has branches in 34 states and represents more than 160 industries suffering from competition from government boards and bureaus financed by taxpayers' money, set forth that bureaucracy has grown to such proportions that it threatens the existence of the present form of American government.

A procession of merchants from Leavenworth testified that they were being driven to the wall by the competition from new government stores in the two federal penitentiaries and by the activities of the post exchange and book department at Fort Leavenworth.

Efforts of the government to get into the cafe and restaurant business were attacked by the American Hotel association, with 6,000 member hotels.

Live stock producers, commission men and bankers pictured the "collapse of live stock industry under withering dictatorship of the secretary of agriculture," and attacked the doings of the federal farm board.

THOUGH the members of congress during the recently ended session gave up a vast amount of time to political scheming, quarreling and useless talk, they actually did enact considerable legislation of moment, often under pressure from the Chief Executive.

They passed a series of measures that began with the moratorium for inter-governmental debts, that included the creation of the Reconstruction Finance corporation, and that ended with the passage of the \$2,122,000,000 relief bill and the home loan bank bill with its currency inflation provision.

They put through a new revenue measure designed to raise more than a billion dollars in additional taxes, and an economy bill saving perhaps \$150,000,000 in government expenditures. They passed all the necessary department supply bills, but refused to make most of the promised economies in these.

Two measures long advocated by Senator Norris were passed. These were the "lame duck" resolution to change the constitutional dates for the beginning of congress and the inauguration of the President, and the anti-injunction bill relating to labor disputes.

The growing national discontent with prohibition was reflected in congress by two test votes in the house and several votes on the legalization of beer in the senate. On March 14, voting to bring the Beck-Linthicum repeal resolution to the floor, the house cast 187 wet votes, the largest of its kind since prohibition, as against 227 dry ballots. Two weeks later a similar vote on the O'Conner-Hull beer bill was 132 to 216.

Senate wets pinned their hopes to various bills to legalize beer, and measures by Senators Hiram Bingham and Millard E. Tydings were offered as amendments to the tax bill, and in a final effort to gain modification and increase federal revenues as a rider to the home loan bank bill. The various attempts met failure.

President Hoover vetoed only three important pieces of legislation. These were the bill extending veterans' privileges to hitherto unthought of classes of former soldiers, and the first Garner-Wagner relief bill with its federal loans to individuals, and the bill to shear the President of his powers under the flexible provisions of the Smoot-Hawley tariff act.

PREMIER MUSSOLINI of Italy made a grand shake-up in his cabinet, five ministers resigning by compulsion. Chief of these was Dino Grandi, minister of foreign affairs. The others were Alfredo Roeco, minister of justice; Antonio Mosconi, minister of finance; Prof. Balbino Giuliano, minister of education, and Giuseppe Bottai, minister of corporations. Mussolini, who already was minister of interior as well as premier, kept for himself the portfolios of foreign affairs and corporations. Francisci, Jung and Ercole were named to the other vacancies. Eleven undersecretaries also were displaced.

Grandi was made ambassador to Great Britain.

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COL. NOBLE B. JUDAH



Col. Noble B. Judah of Chicago, former ambassador to Cuba, who was elected president of the Rainbow division at its annual convention at Los Angeles.

SLAYING IS FORETOLD BY "CARDS OF DEATH"

Murder of Chicago Grocer Is Puzzle for Police.

Chicago.—Police shuffled through a slim deck of clues in their investigation of the slaying of George Carl, storekeeper, foretold, his widow said, 60 hours in advance by "cards of death" she drew from a neighborhood fortune teller's hands.

Authorities held for questioning Ivan Grilee, age thirty-eight, a brother-in-law of the dead man, who, it was learned, sold Mrs. Vera Carl, the widow, a \$5,000 insurance policy with double indemnity clause in which she was named beneficiary. Grilee, however, denied having any insurance dealings with Carl.

Mrs. Carl told police she and her mother had warned Carl that she turned up three cards which predicted his death, at the home of Mrs. Susie Ballo, who has a neighborhood reputation as a soothsayer. He laughed at their forebodings, she said. Mrs. Ballo corroborated their statements as to the "fatal" deal.

Carl was found shot to death in his South side grocery by his wife and son. The widow notified police after calling a friend, John Pettek. The rear of the store was in much disorder, the cash register overturned and empty. No weapon was found.

First information of the occult turn of the case came to police from the victim's nine-year-old son, Dorn. He said that Friday his mother asserted: "Your father will be shot Saturday night. It's in the cards." Mrs. Carl then acknowledged drawing the death cards.

Begin Hunt in Ocean for \$4,000,000 Gold

Norfolk, Va.—Gold and silver bullion and jewels worth \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 are being sought off the Virginia coast by Capt. Harry L. Bowdoin and a crew of twenty-four aboard the S. S. Salvor.

The Atlantic, thirty-five fathoms deep, has hidden the treasure since the Mallory line steamer Merida sank sixty-five miles off Cape Henry, May 28, 1911, after being rammed by the Admiral Farragut.

Troops Are Rushed to Indiana Coal Fields

Sullivan, Ind.—Three companies of National Guard Infantry were sent to Sullivan to maintain order in the growingly tense coal fields.

The troops were ordered out by Gov. Harry A. Leslie at the request of Sheriff A. W. Williams after 2,000 union miners, converging from all parts of Indiana, set up camp near the Hoosier mine.

White Man Given Life for Burning Negroes to Death

Coffeetown, Miss.—Arthur Cook, thirty-one, a farmer, is under a life sentence for the torch slaying of Lewis Bryant, a negro, and his fifteen year old son. Bryant and his son were saturated with oil and burned to death after two white men tortured them into revealing the hiding place of the family's life savings.

Brazilian President Takes 3 Rebel Towns

Rio Janeiro, Brazil.—Federal troops under President Getulio Vargas carried the fighting into rebel territory in Sao Paulo state. Three towns were taken and air-planes bombed the air fields of Sao Paulo city.

FARM LOAN BOARD LENIENT COLLECTOR

Farmer Debtors Assured of Humane Treatment.

Washington.—A promise that the federal farm loan board would pursue a lenient collection policy was given in a letter from President Hoover to Senator Frederick Steiwer (Rep., Ore.). Answering an appeal for a "more humane treatment of farm debtors," the President wrote that at his direction the farm loan board had sent to all its member banks a letter of Commissioner Paul Bestor, which said:

"I have told the President that the banks are not pursuing a course of ruthless and drastic foreclosure. I have advised him that it is not the desire of the federal land banks to acquire farms and that in cases of delinquencies it is the policy of all banks to consider each case on its individual merits and to institute foreclosure proceedings only when investigation discloses that a debtor is not a capable farmer, is not making a real effort to meet his obligations to the full extent of his capacity, and is not likely to succeed if given a reasonable opportunity, or when there are other factors making it necessary to take action in the vital interests of the bank."

In commenting, the President wrote: "You will recognize that the banks must go through certain forms in cases of delinquencies to determine the cases honestly requiring relief, but perhaps our farmers who are in difficulty do not realize the sympathetic view and the endeavor we are making in their interest in these times."

The projected investigation of the farm loan board promises to narrow down to an accounting inquiry, rather than one opening up the whole question of farm relief policy.

Senator George W. Norris (Rep., Neb.), the one man most desirous of seeing the inquiry pushed to the full, announced that he did not intend to serve on the senate agricultural subcommittee which has the investigation in charge.

It was indicated by Senator McNary that, with Senator Norris out, the investigation would confine itself to a study of the farm board's record and accounts.

Dictatorship Decreed for State of Prussia

Berlin.—The German government with old-time military precision, moved swiftly to establish a virtual dictatorship over the huge state of Prussia and to clamp down martial law on the city of Berlin and the province of Brandenburg.

The first action was taken under an emergency decree issued by President Paul von Hindenburg. It followed critical pressure upon the government to stop the political riots which had taken a toll of more than 100 dead and 1,200 injured in three weeks.

Chancellor Franz von Papen was appointed commissioner of Prussia and Lord Mayor Franz Bacht of Essen was named the chancellor's assistant and given the dictatorial power in Von Papen's name.

The decree of martial law was issued when Karl Severing, Prussian minister of interior, declined to accept the president's first emergency decree as binding and declared he would yield only to force.

Holstein Cow Breaks World Milk Producing Record

Breckenridge, Min.—A nine cow-powder milk producer is Holstein Lady Pride Pontiac Liewkje, owned by F. E. Murphy, publisher of the Minneapolis Tribune. She has just broken the world's record for combined milk and butter production at Fennco farms, with a yearly output of 35,626 pounds of milk—about nine times that of the average cow—and 1,483 pounds of butter. She gives 50 quarts of milk a day.

Dino Grandi Forced Out of the Italian Cabinet

Rome.—Dino Grandi, Italian foreign minister, resigned in a far-reaching cabinet shakeup order by Premier Mussolini.

The shakeup was regarded as another "rotation" to bring new blood into the government without any change of policy.

Five ministers and eleven under-secretaries were displaced. Mussolini retained for himself two of the vacated portfolios.

Jury Convicts Gambler of Kidnaping Mrs. Donnelly

Kansas City, Mo.—Charles Mele, a gambler, was convicted of kidnaping Mrs. Nell Q. Donnelly, wealthy garment manufacturer. A 35-year prison term was affixed by the jury.