

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## Roosevelt Plan on Farm Loans Calls for Two Billion Bond Issue—30-Hour Week Proposed for Workers—The Akron Disaster.

**F**OLLOWING the reading of a brief special message on the subject from the President, Senator Robinson of Arkansas introduced the administration's farm mortgage refinancing bill which, with the farm relief bill, is designed to lift the farmers out of the slough of depression.



Senator Robinson

The bill provides for issuing by the farm loan banks of bonds to the extent of \$2,000,000,000, on which the government guarantees the interest payments. The bonds, or the money derived from their sale, are to be used by the farm loan banks for the purpose of taking over the farm mortgages on which the interest rates cannot be more than 4 1/2 per cent.

The expectation is that with money available to settle with his creditor the farmer can scale down the principal of his debt to a considerable extent. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., governor of the new farm credit administration, believes mortgage indebtedness may be scaled down in two ways. A mortgagee, willing to settle for cash or bonds at 70 or 80 per cent of the principal, could exchange the mortgage on that basis for land bank bonds. The bank then would refinance the farmer at 4 1/2 per cent. Or a farmer making a composition with his creditor could borrow the funds for settlement from the land bank.

Opposition to the legislation revolves around two arguments. One is that it will be an inducement to farmers to default in the payments on their present mortgages in order to persuade mortgagees to settle at less than face value. The other is that such a vast flotation of 4 per cent bonds would tend to demoralize the bond market and react unfavorably on banks and insurance companies with large bond portfolios. The maturity of the bonds is to be fixed by the land banks and probably will be 30 or 40 years.

Stated briefly, the main provisions of the farm finance bill are as follows:

Federal land banks are authorized to issue up to \$2,000,000,000 in 4 per cent bonds, interest guaranteed by government.

The same banks could purchase first mortgages on farm land or exchange bonds for them.

The treasury is authorized to subscribe \$50,000,000 to the paid-in surplus of the banks.

Interest rate on loans on mortgages shall not exceed 4 1/2 per cent.

A total of \$15,000,000 would be available from the treasury to compensate banks for interest reduction.

The limit on mortgage loans would be raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Voluntary liquidation of joint stock land banks is provided.

A total of \$100,000,000 of Reconstruction Finance corporation's funds is made available for loans to farmers for refinancing their debts in accordance with provisions of the new bankruptcy relief act.

Reconstruction Finance corporation is authorized to loan \$50,000,000 to drainage, levee and irrigation districts to reduce and refinance their debts.

Increases the lending power of the Reconstruction Finance corporation by \$200,000,000.

**T**HE number of veterans to be affected by the President's order reducing veterans' benefits will not be known for some time. In one way or another it will be felt by practically all of the Spanish-American and World War veterans, and the widows of veterans of these wars now on the government pension rolls, because it reduces the rates on the greater part of such pensions as will continue to be paid. These reductions and those to be dropped from the pension rolls will be affected after July 1 of this year. In brief, the order makes the following provisions:

Payment of pensions authorized to veterans disabled by disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty in active service.

Rates to be paid for service connected disabilities are: 10 per cent disabled, \$3 a month; 25 per cent, \$20; 50 per cent, \$40; 75 per cent, \$60; 100 per cent, \$80. These are 20 per cent reductions under present aids.

Pensions authorized to widows, children, and dependent parents of veterans who died from disease or injuries incurred or aggravated in line of duty in active service. Rates continue as at present.

Payments authorized for non-service connected disabilities and deaths of veterans who served 90 days in the Spanish-American war, Boxer rebellion, Philippine insurrection, and World war, provided disability was total and not due to personal misconduct.

Letter allowance will not be made to unmarried persons with income of more than \$1,000 a year or to any married person or one with minor children whose income exceeds \$2,500.

Pensions of widows and children of

Spanish-American war veterans cut 50 per cent. Excludes peace-time veterans from domiciliary care. Limits sharply emergency officers' pensions.

**B**OTH the senate and house are considering a bill, of which Senator Black of Alabama is the author, that would establish a thirty-hour work week. As the bill is presumed to have the endorsement of the President and the special approval of Secretary of Labor, Miss Perkins, it is expected to pass both houses.

The bill would compel private industry to adopt the thirty-hour week and penalize interstate movement of products made by labor working longer hours.

Black expressed confidence the bill would be upheld by the United States Supreme court.

The Alabama senator said the bill would not accomplish its purpose if it resulted in reduction of wage levels as well as hours and expressed the belief that, if industry attempted to reduce wages, congress would act. "Labor has been underpaid and capital overpaid," he said.

Borah said he was "in thorough accord with the principle of this bill and I'm not so sure that we're not going to have to come to it." His argument revolved around whether congress had the power to take action.

**T**HE country's great loss in the destruction of the Akron is not the loss of the navy's great dirigible, but of the 74 officers and men who went down with her in the storm off the coast of New Jersey. Rear Admiral Moffett, chief of the aeronautic bureau of the navy, who was a passenger on board, with his shipmates upheld to the end the finest traditions of the navy.



Admiral Moffett

The wreck of the Akron, largest of its kind in the world, was the worst airship disaster in history. The airship crashed off the New Jersey coast, twenty miles off Barnegat lightship, during a violent electric storm, accompanied by heavy winds and high seas, dense fog and thick rain.

Lieutenant Commander Wiley, second in command of the airship, and the two men who were saved owed their lives to the chance that brought the German oil tanker Phoebus close to the scene of the accident a few minutes after it happened. They were picked up immediately by the Phoebus, whose crew saw others disappear beneath the waves before rescuers could reach them. The Phoebus cruised about the scene until dawn, but was unable to find any more survivors or to keep track of the wreckage, which was carried swiftly away by the seas.

First report of the disaster was received in radio messages from the Phoebus. Both coast guard and naval vessels were immediately dispatched to the scene of the wreck and cruised around for hours in the hope of finding other survivors. The navy blimp J-3, taking part in the search, fell into the sea. Five of its crew were rescued.

The search was fruitless, and, in the case of the accident to the blimp J-3, was ill fated also.

**D**ETERMINATION to end naval airship construction is mounting through a congress intent upon finding the real causes of the Akron's plunge into the Atlantic.

In the senate King (Dem., Utah), prepared a resolution calling for an investigation of the Akron disaster and the consideration of the advisability of spending more than the \$20,000,000 that the navy already has invested in lighter-than-air craft. Chairman Trammel of the senate naval committee also was considering a study of the accident.

Chairman Vinson of the house naval committee has declared emphatically "there won't be any more airships built."

There were some, however, not so ready to yield beliefs founded during many years in congress. Many had followed Representative Britten of Illinois, who as Republican chairman of the naval committee for years had charge of most of the recent legislation for airships, particularly that au-



Fred Britten

thorizing the \$8,000,000 Akron-Macon sister ship team. Mr. Britten has always declined to support those who thought lighter-than-air craft should be abandoned.

Many members were undecided how far they wanted to go in their ban on airships. Vinson said he thought nothing should be done to prevent operation of the Macon, which is to take the air toward the end of the month. Nor did he think that the new dirigible base at Sunnyville, Calif., where \$4,000,000 had been expended, should be shut down.

**M**ICHIGAN is the first state to vote in favor of the repeal of the Eighteenth amendment. Wisconsin is second with a decisive vote of 4 to 1 for repeal. Town and country alike turned out thumping wet majorities. Milwaukee, where the breweries are humming to turn out 3.2 beer, went wet by more than 10 to 1. Wisconsin's constitutional amendment convention will be held in Madison, April 25. It is predicted that practically all the delegates will be committed to repeal. In Michigan, but one county elected a dry delegate.

**J. P. MORGAN & CO.**, New York bankers, are in for an investigation by a committee of the United States senate, and a committee backed by all the authority which that august body can give.

Without debate, the upper chamber adopted the Fletcher resolution extending wide power to the banking committee to make the inquiry into private banking which President Roosevelt has sponsored.

The resolution was drafted by Ferdinand Pecora, committee counsel, with a view to obtaining all the senate's constitutional power over interstate commerce, banking and tax matters for the committee.

Pecora told the committee he had submitted twenty-three questions to the Morgan firm and that on advice of John W. Davis, its counsel, the banking house had refused to answer one and taken several others under consideration.

**D**ESPITE the Hitler government's dropping of the boycott against German Jewry, the National Socialist party will keep its boycott machine intact. Disappointed at being deprived of the boycott, Nazi auxiliary police raided a Jewish quarter in Berlin. Accompanied by regular police, they searched everywhere for weapons and papers. Streets were closed and pedestrians were stopped. Even worshippers leaving synagogues were halted. Persons not carrying double identification cards were arrested.

The Nazi boycott committee headquarters at Munich announced that "all German stores in the near future will be supplied with big placards identifying them as such." In this way the Nazis will distinguish between German and Jewish stores.

A measure forbidding kosher slaughtering throughout the nation has been approved by the reich's cabinet.

**A** NEW suggestion for a preliminary conference of experts to be held in the United States to prepare for the world economic conference developed at a meeting in Paris between Norman H. Davis, President Roosevelt's ambassador-at-large, and Joseph Paul-Boncour, French foreign minister. In this the French see their opportunity of talking over war debts.



Norman Davis

Like the British, the French want to wangle a debt settlement before the economic conference convenes. So fervid is this desire that Davis expressed his displeasure that Europe, with its very existence at stake, should think of nothing else.

Mr. Davis feels that the Washington administration has made it clear that there are bigger jobs to be done—removal of trade barriers, for example.

So with hopes of calling the economic conference at an early date abandoned, the idea of a preliminary meeting to agree on what is to be done and how to go about it is making headway.

Premier Ramsay MacDonald plans to sail for the United States about April 15 for a conference with President Roosevelt regarding war debts, world economics and armament.

**M**OUNT EVEREST at last has been conquered. Two airplanes have flown across the summit and for the first time in history men looked down upon the highest mountain in the world. The feat was accomplished by the British expedition headed by the marquis of Clydesdale. A photographer succeeded in taking a number of pictures which, it is hoped, will provide an authentic record of the conquest of the 29,002-foot mountain, on the sides of which numerous men have perished attempting by old-fashioned methods to gain the honor of being the first to reach the top.

### EVERETT SAUNDERS



The condition of Everett Saunders, chairman of the Republican national committee, was described as satisfactory at the Washington hospital, where he underwent an operation. Saunders was formerly of Terre Haute, Ind.

### CLAIMS U. S. WILL CUT BRITISH DEBT

**London Mail Sets Reduction at \$692,000,000.**

**London.**—The London Mail said that Norman H. Davis, American ambassador-at-large, had presented to the British government an offer to scale down the British war debt to the United States by more than \$692,000,000.

Other concessions, also on President Roosevelt's authority, were offered, the Mail reported, "although little headway has been made."

The total funded debt of Great Britain to the United States was \$4,398,000,000. To date \$2,006,250,000 has been paid. Mr. Davis left London for Paris after discussing the world economic conference and other matters with British statesmen.

**London.**—Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald will go to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt on world problems during the Easter holidays, according to reports published here.

The Times said MacDonald is expected to make the trip to America in a double capacity—as prime minister of Britain and as president of the forthcoming world economic conference.

### Mussolini Turns Down All Peace "Revisions"

**Rome.**—While the French government was drafting what is reported to be a revised peace project to submit to Premier Mussolini, Il Duce issued an advance notice that the fundamental provisions of his "peace club" plan must remain intact.

Mussolini's proposals for peace, first discussed here recently between him and Prime Minister MacDonald of Great Britain, provide for a four-power collaboration; acceptance of the principle of revision of the peace treaties in accordance with the League of Nations' covenant; a pledge by Great Britain, France, and Italy that arms equality for Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria would be gradually realized; the following of a common line of action by the four powers in world affairs; effectiveness of the accord for ten years at least, and registration of the pact with the League of Nations.

### Biggers, Famous Author, Dead in West, at 48

**Pasadena, Calif.**—Earl Derr Biggers, novelist and playwright, best known for his series of detective stories of which "Charlie Chan" was the hero, died here. He had been in the hospital for some days as result of a heart ailment.

Mr. Biggers was born in Warren, Ohio, August 24, 1884.

### Two Nominations Sent Senate by Roosevelt

**Washington.**—President Roosevelt sent to the senate the nomination of William L. Austin of Mississippi to be director of the census, succeeding William E. Steuart. The President also nominated Edward M. Watson of Hawaii to be judge of the First Circuit court of Hawaii.

### Bank of England Gold Sets New High Record

**London.**—Gold in the Bank of England's issue department reached a record high point April 3 at about £175,000,000, equivalent to about \$247,000,000 at the current value of the pound sterling, as the result of the purchase of £1,342,000 worth of gold in the open market.

### "RACE PURITY" AIM OF GERMAN NAZIS

#### Berlin Convention Outlines Objectives.

**Berlin.**—Protestant Nazis at a national convention here celebrated the triumph of the nationalist revolution. "Race purity" was declared to be the guiding principle of the new organization, known as the "German Christian movement."

Beginning April 4, all persons desiring to leave Germany were required to obtain permission of the police. Reports of flights of thousands of Jews into near-by countries, carrying away money, led to the action.

Nazi leaders agreed to give up their plans of renewing the nationwide boycott against Jewish commercial activity. Reluctance in dropping the plan was admitted.

The Protestant Nazis were told equality for Jews was the promise of a future world, but was not to be expected in Germany. One of the speakers said St. Paul's epistle about the equality of the Jew and the Greek applied to things spiritual but not to this world, where "race purity was ordained by God."

A new ruling in the schools banned the distribution of copies of the German constitution to graduating students. Hereafter they will be given a booklet explaining the significance of the restrictions imposed on Germany in the Versailles treaty.

American officials in Berlin were disturbed over an allegation by the Pangerman Press Service, edited by two Nazis, that "an atrocity lie factory has been set up in the American consulate general." The service claims that the American consulate collects accusations of eastern Jews against Nazis.

George S. Messersmith, United States consul general, said:

"We strongly resent these unwarranted implications and will by proper representations insist on immediate stoppage."

### WASHINGTON BRIEFS

Currency in excess of \$1,200,000,000 of which more than half was gold and gold certificates has been returned to the federal reserve banks.

The senate granted the broadest power in its possession for an investigation of private bankers, including J. P. Morgan & Co., by the banking committee.

The Reconstruction Finance corporation voted \$3,725,000 of emergency relief funds for use in Cook county and 44 downstate counties of Illinois for the first 15 days in April.

The fact that Secretary of the Navy Swanson is going ahead with plans for pushing new ship construction lent credence to reports that the President has given his approval to inclusion of warships in the public works bill when it is introduced.

### Frank Rockefeller, 70, Cousin of John D., Dies

**Russell, Kan.**—Frank Rockefeller, seventy-nine, cousin of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., oil magnate, died in an Ellsworth (Kan.) hospital. He was one of the wealthiest citizens of Russell. Mr. Rockefeller once represented Russell county in the state legislature and served two terms as county sheriff.

### Mexican "Reds" Continue Their Fight on Daniels

**Guadalajara, Mexico.**—Communist literature attacking United States Ambassador Josephus Daniels and calling for demonstrations and his forceful expulsion were collected and destroyed by police. The government was attacked for permitting "the man who machine-gunned our Nationals at Vera Cruz" to come to Mexico.

### Rumor Lindberghs Are to Make Home in Wales

**London.**—Residents of Cardiff, Wales, have received reports that Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh plan to live near Cathedral City, in Llandaff, the Daily Mail reported. It was pointed out that Mrs. E. M. Morgan, Mrs. Lindbergh's sister, has a home near there.

### Roosevelt Resigns as Minister to Hungary

**Budapest, Hungary.**—The resignation of Nicholas Roosevelt as United States minister to Hungary has been accepted by President Roosevelt. It was announced. Mr. Roosevelt will leave for America May 1, making a brief tour of Europe before going to New York.