

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Senate Passes Farm Bill With the Inflation Amendment—Roosevelt to Ask Authority to Deal With War Debts—Herriot Enters Conversations.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

BACKED by the administration, by the big Democratic majority in the senate and apparently by the favor of a large part of the population of the country, the Thomas inflation amendment to the farm relief bill won an easy victory in the senate. With this most portentous addition the farm bill was passed and sent back to the house for concurrence. The anti-inflationists, led by Senator David A. Reed of Pennsylvania, made a desperate but hopeless fight, arguing that while "controlled" inflation, as promised by the amendment's sponsors, might temporarily restore a measure of prosperity to the nation, previous experience here and abroad showed that control could not be maintained and that the ultimate results would be disastrous. Reed, Tydings of Maryland, a Democrat, and others seemed terribly dismayed by the prospects for the future and their sincerity could not be doubted.

Senator Thomas of Oklahoma himself led the debate for the affirmative, opening with the startling statement that the amendment, if it prevailed, should transfer value to the extent of almost \$200,000,000,000 from the creditor class to the debtor class. Of course, the effect of this assertion is greatly weakened when one realizes that our people cannot really be divided into such classes. There is scarcely a creditor in the land who is not also a debtor, and vice versa. But this point and many another were ignored by the proponents of inflation. Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, for instance, on the second day of the debate, confined his efforts mainly to taunting the "Mellon-Mills-Reed" group for its alleged failures during the Hoover administration.

The Wheeler-King silver coinage amendment was accepted by the senate. It would enable the President to fix the ratio between gold and silver and to provide for unlimited coinage of both metals at the ratio so fixed.

JUST what inflation, even if "controlled," will do to the nation and its business is a question on which economists and financiers are as far apart as the poles. For the present the prospect of its adoption and the abandonment of the gold standard have served to create almost a boom in certain lines of business, and the prices of commodities have begun to rise. But how this will in the long run benefit the ordinary citizen has not been shown to the satisfaction of most of us.

Some experts are of the opinion that the inflation bill may never be used; that it is "a mere bluff intended to have the very effect it is now having—arresting and reversing the downward course of prices," and giving the President a better position in the economic conversations with foreign statesmen, as did the abandonment of the gold standard, which also was inflationary.

WAR debts and reduction of armaments came to the fore in the White House conversations as Prime Minister MacDonald concluded his part of the parleys and prepared to depart for home, and former Premier Edouard Herriot of France began his sessions with the President. These three gentlemen met together, and after an informal dinner, Mr. Roosevelt took up the disarmament question with them, his evident purpose being to bring France into line at the Geneva conference. French demands for guarantees of security against attack, which have blocked all agreement hitherto, were discussed by the President, and it was said he indicated that he was "searching sincerely for means of associating the United States" with international efforts to check aggressor nations. Such association might take the form of consultation with signatories of the Kellogg peace pact in the event of its violation. And in addition there is the administration bill authorizing the President to join other nations in declaring embargoes on arms and munitions.

As for the war debts, they were first brought up by Mr. MacDonald, who

let Mr. Roosevelt know that Great Britain would like a downward revision; and their communique said that the basis was laid of a clearer understanding of the situation affecting the two nations, though no plan of settlement was under way yet. This encouraged M. Herriot and his expert associates to press the arguments of France for cancellation.

Then Mr. Roosevelt let the correspondents know that he was planning to ask congress for authority to reopen the war debt settlements and negotiate a reduction of the 11 billions which European nations owe the United States. If he were vested with this power the United States would enter the London conference prepared to bargain for stabilization of currencies on a modified gold basis, re-monetization of silver, lowering of tariffs and other trade barriers and adoption of measures to raise commodity prices and restore purchasing power.

Members of the French delegation said the President had promised MacDonald and Herriot that he would ask congress for authority to postpone the debt installments due June 15, and that in return Herriot would ask the French parliament to pay the defaulted December 15 payment of \$19,000,000.

As Mr. MacDonald said good-bye to the White House, he and Mr. Roosevelt announced that they had agreed on the following:

- An increase in the general level of commodity prices.
- Re-orientation of commercial policies.
- Reduction of tariffs, quotas and exchange restrictions.
- World expansion of credit.
- Capital expenditures by governments to stimulate business.
- Re-establishment of an international monetary standard.
- Improvement of the status of silver.

PRIME MINISTER RICHARD B. Bennett of Canada was already in Washington to talk with the President; Finance Minister Guido Jung of Italy and Hjalmar Senact of Germany were on their way, and Japan announced that Viscount Kikujiro Ishii would arrive May 23. Mr. Bennett told the newspaper men that Canada stands ready to discuss any proposals that look toward closer commercial relations with the United States, and said the Ottawa agreements do not affect these trading possibilities. In a prepared statement he used these emphatic phrases:

"We have reached a point where it is certain that nothing but united action can avert world disaster."
"Immediate action is imperative."
"The world is in tragic trouble and distress."
"If we do not soon defeat the forces of disruption and discord, they will defeat us."
"We must act boldly and unselfishly, otherwise we shall be certain witnesses of the wreck of our civilization."

Asked whether Canada really had gone off the gold standard, as had been asserted by Finance Minister Rhodes, the prime minister replied: "Canada is as much off the gold standard and as much on the gold standard as the United States."

REFUSING to accept the Norris senate bill as a substitute, the house passed the McSwain bill for the operation of the Muscle Shoals development, the vote being 306 to 91. Seventeen Republicans and five Farmer-Laborites voted with the majority. The house version is regarded as a less drastic measure than the Norris bill. The principal point of difference between the two is that the house bill provides an appropriation of \$10,000,000 and a bond issue of \$50,000,000 for starting the development program, while the Norris bill simply authorizes "all appropriation necessary." The Nebraskan's measure is likewise more rigid with regard to government construction of power transmission lines.

WHEN the world disarmament conference resumed its sessions in Geneva the French plan for an anti-war pact of consultation was presented by Rene Massigli. It excluded the American continent on the ground that it was impossible at present to make the pact universal. Massigli sug-

gested the creation in the capital of each signatory power of a commission which would determine violations of the Briand-Kellogg pact and the rights of a victim to assistance.

Concrete measures to prevent misuse of civil airplanes for military purposes were presented by the United States, Canada, Argentina and Japan.

MUSSOLINI'S four-power peace plan is causing a lot of excited discussion in various European countries. Great Britain and Germany might gladly agree to this, but France still asserts the sanctity of treaties must be respected, and in this she is of course supported by all the nations of the little entente, and by Poland. In Czechoslovakia especially sentiment was aroused, and Foreign Minister Edouard Benes told the parliament in Prague that whoever desires to change the boundaries of that country must bring an army along with him. He criticized the Mussolini plan as a "great backward step," and added: "History shows that surrender of territory always is connected with the bloodiest wars."

SOVIET Russia was on the verge of a quarrel with Japan over the equipment of the Chinese Eastern railway, and in that connection it was interesting to note that a new alignment was bringing Russia and France together, the former drifting away from Germany and the latter beginning to take sides against Japan. Already the French and Russians have arranged for exchange of military information and military instructors. Before long the situation on the European continent may be pan-Germanism against pan-Slavism, with France on the side of the latter and Italy with the former.

CONTINUED Chinese resistance near Kuppikow pass on the road to Peiping so enraged the Japanese military command that it announced the early occupation of all strategic points in the North China area. With this in view, the Japanese launched a general attack south of the Great Wall designed to open the way to the old Chinese capital. As usual, Japan finds a ready excuse for offensive movements already planned.

The Manchukuoan government has announced that only nations recognizing that state will benefit by its promise of an open door trade policy.

FORMER Gov. Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming finally has been placed in a federal position. The President appointed her director of the mint. Obviously Mrs. Ross was entitled to a good place, for as vice chairman of the Democratic national committee and head of the party's women's organization she has been valuable.

WISCONSIN has the honor of being the second state to ratify the prohibition repeal amendment to the Constitution, and the first to do that by unanimous vote. Fifteen delegates, assembled in the Capitol building in Madison, were addressed by Governor Schmedeman, and in eight minutes thereafter the resolution of ratification had been drawn up and adopted to the accompaniment of cheers.

"REPUBLICAN Federal Associates" is the name given an organization just formed by men prominent in the Hoover administration to aid the party in returning to power in the 1934 congressional elections. Walter F. Brown, former postmaster general, is its president, and Ogden Mills, secretary of the treasury under Hoover, is chairman of the board. Arch Coleman, who was first assistant postmaster general in the Hoover administration, is in charge of Washington headquarters, and W. Irving Glover, who was second assistant postmaster general, is director of organization.

Mr. Coleman said the organization was primarily to keep together those who have been active in Republican circles for the last twelve years; to keep them advised of what is going on, and to bring back to the party fold those Republicans who supported Roosevelt last year.

Ernest Lee Jahncke, the Hoover assistant secretary of the navy, is first vice president; Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, second vice president; Charles J. Moos, third vice president; William R. Castle, treasurer, and Coleman, general secretary.

Six of the Hoover cabinet members are represented on the board of directors—Mills, Brown, Roy, D. Chapin, Arthur M. Hyde, William N. Doak and Ray Lyman Wilbur. Others include Walter E. Hope, former assistant secretary of the treasury; James J. Patchell, Union City, Ind.; Mrs. Longworth, Castle, Moos, St. Paul; Jahncke, Harry Culver, Culver, Calif.; Coleman, Glover, John Richardson, Boston; Ferry K. Heath, former assistant secretary of the treasury, and Mrs. Albert G. Sims, New Mexico.

CUMMINGS PUSHES INSULT INQUIRY

No Leniency for the Guilty, He Promises.

Washington.—New information on insult manipulations is being called for by the Department of Justice. There will be no leniency for persons in high places or for leading institutions, if facts show that they were criminally involved, Attorney General Homer S. Cummings said.

The department is seeking additional facts to fill the picture sketched during hearings in the senate stock market investigation some months ago.

Thus far no additional grounds for action have been discovered in the senate testimony, Mr. Cummings said, but the added facts may complete groundwork for other indictments. The matter is being left largely in the hands of District Attorney Dwight F. Green in Chicago. Nineteen persons already have been indicted.

Mr. Cummings insisted that whatever action the government takes will not be softened or delayed for the benefit of important institutions or persons.

Reminded that the previous administration had held up criminal prosecutions in the Harriman National bank case in New York supposedly to aid the bank, Cummings rejoined: "Yes, and those who saw fit to hold up prosecution in that case have been explaining ever since."

"We should know the truth about these matters," the attorney general added.

"Besides," the attorney general declared, "nine-tenths of the apprehension felt by defendants for institutions they have mismanaged is personal, I think." He said he thought people generally were wanting a thorough investigation and cleaning up of the insult situation.

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

Robert W. Bingham, American ambassador to Great Britain, postponed his departure for his new post until May 10 because of a minor operation.

F. W. Peck of St. Paul assumed office as a member of the farm board. He has been director of the farm extension work of the University of Minnesota.

Sites for 50 more conservation work camps, approved by President Roosevelt, were announced by Robert Fechner, director of the conservation employment program.

Renewed pledges to keep racketeers out of the beer business and to cut down the cost of federal law enforcement were given by Attorney Gen. Homer S. Cummings in an address.

The interstate commerce commission has authorized the LaCrosse & Southeastern Railway company to abandon most of its lines and sell the remainder to the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific railroad.

Secretary Swanson announced the selection of Vice Admiral William H. Standley, now commander of cruisers of the scouting force, as the new chief of naval operations to succeed Admiral William V. Pratt, but the latter will retain his post pending development of present international conversations.

Barrel Staves Carry Two Men to Safety

Boulder, Colo.—Two mining men, using barrel staves for skis, escaped from a snowbound cabin after being marooned four days by storms.

The men—Donald Morris of Highland Park, Ill., and H. M. Spencer of Boulder—slid and skied three miles down a mountainside and then walked four miles to meet a searching party hunting them.

Blame Firebug for Loss of 1,000,000 Gallons of Rum

London.—Fire which destroyed more than 1,000,000 gallons of rum stored in barrels on the West India docks probably was of incendiary origin, police and dock officials said. The full extent of the damage has not been established, but government officials said the loss to the government in taxes was about \$13,400,000.

Swiss Fascist Party Born; Would Expel Jewish Exiles

Zurich, Switzerland.—A Fascist party was created here. A crowd of 1,000 attended the organization meeting of the new Swiss "national front." Orators demanded the suppression of Marxism, restriction of the freedom of the press, muzzling of pacifist agitation, and expulsion of all Jewish refugees who have come here from Germany.

Russian Girls in Armies of China

Driven From Native Land, With Their Menfolk, by Soviet Rule.

The Chinese women soldiers wear male garb and carry rifles and bayonets, and in the fighting in which they have figured up to now they are said to have proven fearless and determined both in attack and in outpost work.

Moreover, they are no laggards in the business of marching and counter-marching, which is a feature of campaigning in this wild region, and the cruel hardships of life in the field are accepted without murmurings or flinching.

They are true Amazons, these women fighters, the womenfolk of bandits, to whom fighting and hardships have become matters of second nature. There are many such in the wild marches of northern China.

For all that we live in the Twentieth century, women warriors of this type are by no means so rare as might be supposed. Only a year or two back, fighting on this same Manchurian front, was found a band of some four-score Russian women who made local history in matters of warfare.

They had come mostly out of Harbin, driven, with their menfolk, out of the maelstrom that made exiles of those of their birth who still remained loyal to the salt of Czarism. By and by their menfolk, whose trade was fighting, saw no other way of pursuing it than by joining one or other of the armies of the half-dozen Chinese generals who were engaged in internecine strife in the countryside from Peking to the north. Some brought into play the new aid of armored train companies; others became skillful cavalry patrols.

Their womenfolk left back in Harbin, however, soon tired of the role of restaurant dancers and the like for which they had been cast. It was too tame after the experiences through which they had passed. In other ways, birth and breeding, for instance, they were not of the type to take kindly to a life of menial tasks which seemed all that otherwise remained to them.

So a number of these Russian girls banding themselves together, went south one day and presently turned up at the camp of General Chang Chung Chang, whom they astonished by seeking to be enrolled in his force. He offered them jobs in the commissariat department—and found his offer spurned with a fine scorn. They had come to fight, said these girls, and if Chang would not have them—well, perhaps his rivals would. In the end the general gave in and his army thenceforth had in its ranks a unique company.

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"I read an advertisement for Cuticura Soap and Ointment and sent for a free sample of each. I purchased more and after using two cakes of Cuticura Soap and two twenty-five cent boxes of Ointment I was healed." (Signed) Mrs. Marsha Nevils, R. 6, Box 125, LaGrange, Texas, July 26, '32.

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Sen. Thomas



R. B. Bennett



Ogden Mills



M. Herriot