

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Asks Senate to Ratify St. Lawrence Waterway Treaty, and Battle Begins—Russian Ambassador Troyanovsky Presents His Credentials.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PUTTING to the test his influence over the senate, President Roosevelt in a special message to that body asked speedy consideration and ratification of the St. Lawrence waterway treaty with Canada. The opponents of the pact had been waiting for the chance to start the battle, and they were so numerous and so determined that no one would predict the outcome. Ratification requires a two-thirds vote, or 64 of the 96 senators.

Coincidental with the reception of the President's message was the submission of a minority report by Senator Wagner of New York as a member of the foreign relations committee, in which Mr. Wagner argued vigorously against ratification of the treaty. He declared the cost of the waterway to the United States would be \$373,136,000 instead of the \$272,453,000 estimated by the proponents of the pact; and he asserted the United States would spend three times as much as Canada, though the Dominion would receive a "vast preponderance" of the benefits. The senator added:

"Most important of all, I am not in favor of a public works project designed to employ Canadian workmen with United States money. The treaty provides that although the United States is to supply the funds for most of the work in the International Rapids section of the St. Lawrence river, the portion of this work on the Canadian side of the section is to be performed with Canadian workmen using Canadian materials."

The President's message to the senate gave his opinion that the treaty was fair, that the waterway project was economically sound. He declared that "local fears of economic harm to special localities or to special interests are grossly exaggerated." He attempted to dispose of opposition from Illinois and Mississippi valley senators by declaring that the treaty provision on the diversion at Chicago was adequate to guarantee a sufficient volume of water.

The opposition of Chicago and the Mississippi valley to the treaty was voiced especially by Senators James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois and Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri. Both these gentlemen declared entirely unacceptable a suggested compromise for attaching a reservation to the treaty holding that if the United States Supreme court at any future time altered its present order that the Chicago diversion should be limited to 500 cubic feet per second after 1938, the altered judgment of the court should automatically be enforceable under the treaty.

The Mississippi valley people are especially opposed to the surrender of the domestic sovereignty of the United States over Lake Michigan; and all the members of the army board of engineers except the chief engineer held that the treaty provisions for diversion at Chicago were inadequate.

RECOGNITION of Russia was formally completed when Alexander A. Troyanovsky, the Soviet ambassador, arrived in Washington and presented his credentials to President Roosevelt at the White House. He brought with him several members of the embassy staff and as soon as the diplomatic procedure had been completed he eagerly got down to work on the matters of trade relations, credits and other questions with the officials of the State department.



Ambassador Troyanovsky

Mr. Troyanovsky was accompanied on his journey from Europe by William C. Bullitt, American ambassador to Moscow. At the Washington station he was welcomed by Jefferson Patterson and Robert F. Kelley of the State department, and by Toshihiko Takeomi, the Japanese charge d'affaires, a personal friend during the years when Troyanovsky was ambassador to Tokio.

In a brief interview granted to the press Mr. Troyanovsky said he was not planning to negotiate a nonaggression treaty with the United States similar to those the Soviet Union has with various European countries. He thinks this unnecessary because of the

good relations established by the exchange of letters between President Roosevelt and President Kalinin.

CHICAGO'S milk supply was practically cut off by a strike of dairy farmers of that region who demand a higher price for their product. The controversy was complicated by the evident desire of the larger milk distributing companies of the city to drive out of business the smaller concerns that depend on "cash and carry" trade, and by the determination of the organized milk drivers not to accept reductions in pay. The farmers, thoroughly organized and ably directed, and the temporary idle drivers committed innumerable acts of violence and vandalism, almost with impunity. Milk trucks were burned or dumped in the river with their contents, and in at least one instance a train was stopped and robbed of a consignment of condensed milk.

When the strike had lasted five days and the farm administration and Secretary Wallace had shown no disposition or ability to end it, Mayor Kelly arranged a truce and arbitration agreement and the shipping of milk to Chicago was resumed.

EARLE BAILIE, who has been acting as fiscal assistant to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, has resigned, and it is no secret that his retirement was the price paid for the unopposed confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Morgenthau by the senate. Certain members of the upper house, notably Senator Couzens, let the secretary know that they did not approve of the retention of Bailie, and Morgenthau told them Bailie had consented to help him temporarily and intended to quit soon. So the fiscal assistant wrote a nice letter saying that he would have to get back to New York to resume his work with the Seligman firm of investment bankers.



Earle Bailie

It was Bailie's connection with the banking house that aroused the opposition to him. Senator Couzens had said openly that it was scandalous that there should be chosen for a high treasury post a partner of the Seligman firm, whose flotation of loans to South American countries, now in default, was aired before a senate investigating committee. One revelation was that the firm paid a "commission" of \$450,000 to Juan Legula, son of the president of Peru, in connection with negotiation of a loan to that country.

SPEAKER RAINEY, after a conference at the White House, announced that President Roosevelt was making no out of town engagements for the period during which congress would be in session but would remain at his desk until adjournment. He added that the President hopes this will be early in the spring, as he believes the legislative program will be disposed of speedily.

PLANS for the issue of \$2,000,000,000 of farm bonds for the purpose of refinancing the national farm mortgage burden were got under way at the instance of the President, who sent to congress a special message on the subject. The bonds were authorized last year with a guarantee only of the interest, but Mr. Roosevelt asked that both interest and principal be guaranteed in order that the bonds might be made readily acceptable to investors. The administration's bill also would increase to \$800,000,000 the \$200,000,000 emergency funds established last spring for mortgage loans to farmers who cannot refinance their debts through the land banks.

WITH only five votes in opposition, the government's liquor tax bill, which is expected to add \$470,000,000 to the national revenue, was passed by the house of representatives. Not one of more than a score of amendments altering the tax rates was accepted by the house and the measure, as finally passed, carried the same rates originally recommended by the ways and means committee.

A rigid requirement that all bottled liquor sold at retail must carry a federal stamp showing the government tax to have been paid and indicating the quantity and quality of the contents was written into the bill by the ways and means committee at the instance of the Treasury department. As passed by the house, the bill in-

poses a tax of \$2 a gallon on distilled spirits, \$5 a barrel on beer and from 10 to 40 cents a gallon on wine.

When the measure came up in the senate the Democratic leaders were caught napping and Senator Clark of Missouri secured the adoption of two amendments that stirred up quite a row. The first provided for the placing of additional high tariff duties on wines and liquors from foreign countries that have defaulted on their war debt payments to the United States. The second change repealed that portion of the Reed "bone dry" act prohibiting newspapers and periodicals carrying liquor advertising from entering dry states. At present such publications must make over and send out copies for dry territory with blank spaces in place of the liquor advertisements.

Administration pressure was brought to bear and next day the vote on the first amendment was reconsidered and the change was rejected.

The anti-cancellationists came to the front again when Senator Johnson of California obtained passage of his bill prohibiting the future purchase or sale of securities of, and loans to, any foreign government or subdivision which is in default to the United States, or to any American bondholders.

IN HIS efforts to save New York city from bankruptcy Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia asked the state legislature to pass a bill that would give him full control of the city's finances. But he ran into a snag at once, for Governor Lehman in a stinging letter told the mayor he would never approve such a measure which, he declared, would establish a fiscal and political dictatorship that he considered entirely unnecessary and essentially un-American.



Mayor La Guardia

"No man in this country has ever asked for or received the dictatorial powers which would be yours through the enactment of this bill," the governor wrote.

Mayor La Guardia, who always has been a fighter, came back with a letter that bristled with references to the evils of the situation confronting the city, the hopelessness of trying to get assistance from the board of aldermen or putting piecemeal legislation through at Albany and accusations of political maneuvering by the governor. Later the governor and the mayor got together and worked out a compromise to reform the city's financial setup and balance the budget. Under this program the mayor will not be able to set himself up as sole dictator, with power to abolish jobs and consolidate departments, but will have to share these powers with his fellow members of the board of estimate. The mayor has only three of the sixteen votes on the board, but his Republican-Fusion confederates hold an additional ten votes and on the face of things, the mayor will be able to swing his plans into effect.

SIX navy seaplanes carrying 30 men made a nonstop flight from San Francisco to Honolulu, 2,306 miles, in 24 hours and 45 minutes. It was the longest mass flight over water ever made and Lieut. Comm. Kneifer McGinnis and his men were entitled to the high praise they received from high officials of the navy.

BY A 5 to 4 vote the United States Supreme court sustained the constitutionality of the Minnesota emergency mortgage moratorium law which provides that, during the emergency declared to exist, courts might step in to halt or delay real estate mortgage sales and extend periods of redemption. This was held to foreshadow the probable stand of the court when other New Deal measures come up before it.

ONE of the country's best known newspaper publishers and editors, Frank P. Glass of Montgomery, Ala., died of influenza just after the senate interstate commerce committee had decided to recommend his confirmation as a member of the federal railroad mediation board, a position given him by the President last year. Mr. Glass was publisher of the Montgomery Advertiser and also had been editor of the Birmingham News, and the St. Louis Star. He was a vigorous writer and a man of influence in the Democratic party.

FRANCE enjoyed one of those great financial scandals not infrequent in these times, and the government of Premier Chautemps was endangered. Serge Stavisky, known as "Handsome Alex," had duped countless widows and orphans out of some sixty million francs through a Bayonne pawnshop swindle, and certain members of the cabinet were involved. Stavisky fled but was traced to a lonely villa at Chamounix, where two bullets in the head ended his life. The police said it was suicide, but the general belief was that the police shot the man so that the ministry could appear before the chamber of deputies with clean hands. © by Western Newspaper Union

SUPREME COURT HELPS NEW DEAL

Emergency Law on Mortgage Moratoriums Upheld.

Washington.—The Supreme court upheld as constitutional the Minnesota law establishing a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures in the state. The ruling was the first to come from the court on legislation passed to meet the emergencies of the depression and was regarded as a test of the court's attitude toward such measures.

In addition to being an important test of the power of the states to resort to drastic action in an emergency, the case was believed to establish a precedent for similar legislation in many states which may face a Supreme court challenge.

Chief Justice Hughes in the opinion went into a prolonged discussion of emergency power inherent in the federal Constitution.

"Emergencies do not create powers not otherwise contained in the Constitution," Hughes said. "The Constitution itself was adopted in a period of grave emergency."

"But emergency may furnish occasions calling for the exercise of power and may furnish occasion for the use of powers already in existence."

Hughes noted that no one questioned that war powers were in the Constitution, although they were not resorted to except in times of hostility.

The ruling provoked a violent dissent from a minority headed by Justice Sutherland. He said that few more vexing questions had come before the court in his generation. A dissenting opinion, he said, was necessary because of implications threatening further inroads on Constitutional rights.

He was joined in the dissent by other members of the regular conservative bloc—Justices Van Devanter, McReynolds and Butler. The alignment in favor of the use of emergency power included Hughes and Justices Brandeis, Stone, Roberts and Cardozo.

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

President Roosevelt nominated Walter M. W. Splawn, former president of the University of Texas, to the interstate commerce commission. The President also advanced William W. Howes of South Dakota to be first assistant postmaster general and named Harlee Branch of Georgia to succeed him as second assistant postmaster general.

Hugh S. Johnson approved a modification of the automobile code which will permit the motor plants to work their employees 40 hours, instead of the original 35 hours a week fixed by their codes.

Earl Bailie, partner in the J. & W. Seligman investment firm and target of senatorial inquiries and criticisms, resigned as fiscal assistant to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau.

The NRA national compliance board cited Edward T. Jones, Kansas City wholesale and retail dry cleaner, to the federal trade commission for alleged price cutting in violation of the cleaning code.

Depreciation of the dollar in foreign countries plus a 15 per cent pay reduction has cut in half the salaries of 2,330 American foreign service officers and clerks in diplomatic and consular posts all over the world.

Ford Wins Again by Ruling of Mr. McCarl

Washington.—Eligibility of Ford dealers to compete for government business again has been established by J. R. McCarl, the controller general, in refusing to approve payments on another make of automobile on the grounds' contracts were not awarded to the low bidder.

McCarl wrote Secretary Ickes that "appropriated monies are not available for payment" on contracts let for fine new units delivered at Casper, Wyo., and Salt Lake City, Utah, and refused to accept the statement that "the Ford Motor company is not a member of the NRA" as a reason for rejecting its bid on the new machines.

Woman Patient Shoots Physician to Death

Reading, Pa.—Dr. Paul R. Hess, ably prominent physician, was shot and killed in front of his office by two of five bullets fired from a pistol in the hands of a woman patient. The patient, Miss Frances Sepsie, thirty, made no effort to escape. She handed the pistol to a policeman who arrived a few moments after the shots were fired.

British History Books

Mum on Events of '76

Only a few very eccentric Englishmen know anything about the War of Independence, the Revolution, the Rebellion, or whatever you wish it to be called, says a writer in Vanity Fair, London.

We are aware, of course, that Lord North muddled the business and that Burke devoted to that riddle many fine passages of English oratory. We are aware that after many protracted transactions the Colonies declared their independence and that the British government, with a fine gesture of fair-mindedness and liberalism, granted them that independence.

We have heard it whispered, even, that in the interval which elapsed between this act of spontaneous generosity and the original difficulty at Boston, some minor military operations occurred. There was a slight incident, we have been told, at a place called Bunker's Hill, and another regrettable occurrence at a place called Yorktown.

But the whole story figures but slightly in our history books, which proceed almost at once to pass onward to the more satisfactory episodes of the Napoleonic wars.

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