

# CURRENT EVENTS PASS IN REVIEW

## SENATOR VANDENBERG PLANS TO TAKE POSTAL DEPARTMENT CLEAR OUT OF POLITICS.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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SENATOR VANDENBERG of Michigan, liberal Republican, says he will introduce in the senate a bill designed to take the Post Office department out of politics. The measure he has drafted would put all postmasters and postal officials, except the postmaster general, under the civil service, and in the giving out of jobs the post office employees would have the preference. Senator Vandenberg has been persistently demanding that Postmaster General Farley either resign from the cabinet or give up his chairmanship of the Democratic national committee. In line with this his bill would prohibit the postmaster general from holding any political office.

The Michigan senator said he had written the bill after conferences with the civil service commission and service organizations within the Post Office department. He predicted it would have strong support from the latter quarter.

By taking politics out of the department and establishing a career service, Vandenberg said, "the pavement-pounding letter carriers may look forward to ultimate graduation to the high post of first assistant postmaster general."

"Under this bill," he added, "politics and postal affairs at last are separated as far as is possible in a democracy. All local postmasters are put squarely under civil service with emphatic and effective priorities given to the 'postal grays' themselves."

"Existing postmasters are permitted to serve out their present commissions. Thereupon the vacancies are filled by promotion from the service ranks. Only in the event that no such person is available—and we anticipate that this contingency would not arise other than in some of the smallest offices—can the vacancy be filled otherwise than by promotion."

SEVERAL high ranking officers in the army and War department officials, as yet unnamed, are involved in a scandal concerning the awarding of department claims and contracts, and Secretary of War Dern has ordered an investigation. One officer is suspected of having accepted bribes for swelling claims and another of having supplied valuable contract information in return for a loan from a lobbyist.

This was revealed in the final report of the subcommittee of the house military affairs committee investigating War department transactions.

The report also discloses that its recommendation in a preliminary report last June for the removal of Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois, chief of the army air corps, has been turned over to the inspector general of the army. This is the usual step preliminary to placing such a matter before a military tribunal, the report states.

Foulois is not one of the men under suspicion. The preliminary report charged him with "misconduct and gross inefficiency" after an inquiry into the disastrous management of the air mail by the army early in the year.

IN THE opinion of Federal Judge Merrill E. Otis of Kansas City, code price fixing under the NRA is illegal and congress has not the power either to fix prices or to authorize the President to do so, even in transactions undoubtedly a part of interstate commerce. His decision was given in denying a temporary injunction sought by the government against the operators of the Sutherland Lumber company, which maintains yards in Oklahoma, Iowa and Nebraska.

AMBASSADOR HIROSI SAITO handed to Secretary of State Hull Japan's formal denunciation of the Washington naval treaty, and at about the same time the American delegates to the naval conversations in London sailed for home. The treaty remains in effect until the end of 1936, but it is the hope of the Japanese that a new pact will be signed, giving them global parity with the United States and Great Britain instead of the existing 5-5-3 ratio.

STILL hoping that President Roosevelt will take notice of the opinions of business men for which he called, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States now recommends that the national recovery act be re-

placed by new legislation to take federal regimentation out of business. The expression of the organization followed a tabulation of a referendum vote of the commercial and trade organizations in its membership.

The business group declared itself for revision by the coming congress after a weighing of experiences under the present stringent regulatory laws. By an overwhelming majority members voted that the NRA, the enabling act of the National Recovery administration, should not be continued or extended.

As its foremost declaration members of the association agreed that industry should formulate its own rules of fair competition and that the government's part should be confined to approval or veto.

Further the association's membership expressed itself strongly against intrastate regulation of the NRA as evolved through the various state legislative enactments supporting the NRA.

GEORGE H. TINKHAM, the bearded and sharp-tongued representative from Massachusetts, has revived the controversy over the League of Nations with an assertion that the United States is being slipped into the league through the back door. He says the joint resolution adopted in the last few days of the Seventy-third congress, making the United States a member of the international labor organization was the first of a contemplated series of moves designed to put the United States openly into the league, contrary to the wishes of the people and of congress, and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins was the especial object of his attack. Using such harsh words as "fraud" and "intrigue," Mr. Tinkham accused Secretary Perkins of employing "contemptible trickery" in urging adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Tinkham quoted the labor secretary as saying that the international labor organization, "is not even now an integral part of the League of Nations, and membership in the organization does not imply affiliation with the league." He continued: "This statement is the grossest perversion of the truth. It is squarely contrary to the facts—facts established by an indelible record, the treaty of Versailles. The statement contained in the letter of the secretary of labor was intended to deceive. The secretary knew that the congress of the United States was opposed to entry into the League of Nations and would not vote for entry knowingly. Entry was therefore made surreptitiously and fraudulently."

"Article 392 of the treaty of Versailles states: 'The international labor office shall be established at the seat of the League of Nations as part of the organization of the league.'"

"This audacious intrigue to have the United States enter the League of Nations by way of one of the organs of the league is to be followed by an attempt to have the United States enter another of its organs, the Permanent Court of International Justice of the League of Nations, this subsequently to be followed by a proposal of full membership in the League of Nations. Thus, the independence of the United States will be destroyed, the will of the American people thwarted, and the United States inevitably involved in the next European conflict."

PROSECUTION and defense attorneys completed their preparations for the trial of Bruno Hauptmann on the charge of murdering the Lindbergh baby, and the little town of Flemington, N. J., was a busy place. The names of 48 veniremen were drawn for examination as jurors, and the sensation over the mailing of a satire on the Lindbergh case to 150 prospective jurors died down. C. Lloyd Fisher, defense counsel, said he would not ask for a new panel.

Betty Gow, the nurse who put the Lindbergh baby to bed the night he was kidnaped and killed, arrived from Scotland on the liner Aquitania and went at once to the Morrow home in Englewood, N. J., to await her call as one of the state's star witnesses. She declined to talk to reporters, but posed for cameramen. There was a report that Miss Gow might remain in this country and take up her former job in the Lindbergh household. She had acted as nurse for Jon, second son born to the Lindberghs, until she returned to Scotland several months ago. Hauptmann seemed calm as the time for his ordeal approached, and he ate a hearty Christmas dinner. Mrs. Hauptmann, who moved from the Bronx to Flemington to be near her husband, made a radio appeal "to the people of the country to wait until

they hear every side of the story before they condemn him." She reiterated her belief that Hauptmann had nothing to do with the kidnaping of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. She repeated her story that Hauptmann had waited for her at a Bronx bakery where she worked the night of the kidnaping and had taken her home.

IT IS reported in Washington that the federal communications commission will recommend to congress a law that will permit the merger of all wire, telegraph, cable and wireless services controlled by American interests, and that it has the tacit approval of the President.

Waiving the antitrust laws, the legislation would make the following companies eligible to join: International Telephone and Telegraph company, which controls the Postal Telegraph company; R. C. A. Communications, Inc., and Western Union. I. T. & T. operates also in both the field of cable and radio, the R. C. A. radio networks spread to about forty countries and Western Union, besides its great telegraph system, has a wide cable service.

POPE PIUS XI is not optimistic concerning world peace. In his Christmas eve address, delivered according to custom to the cardinals resident in Rome, the holy Father said that "the clamor of war spreads ever farther, and he urged the world to pray and work for peace. 'We see a constant increase in warlike arms,' the pope continued.

"This is a distracting element in which the spirit seems to have no part. We are on the eve of a day when the heavens resound with the hymns of angels calling for peace on earth. Never has the chant had more reason for being than today."

King George, in a radio address to all parts of the British empire, was a little more cheerful. He adjured his "peoples beyond the seas" to remember that they all belonged to one great family.

President Roosevelt's brief Christmas talk was addressed especially to the citizens of America, calling for "courage and unity" for greater happiness and the improvement of human welfare.

SENATOR JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS of Illinois, chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations and a veteran in international conferences, has set forth a view concerning treaties for disarmament or reduction of armaments that will meet with the approval of many of his fellow citizens, though they are sharply at variance with those of the administration. He evidently is glad the Washington naval pact is dying, owing to the action of Japan, and he says that in future the United States must, for its own sake, remain aloof from all such agreements, because they are almost certain to embroil us in war.

Addressing the National Forum in Washington, Senator Lewis declared the recent naval conversations in London succeeded only in designing a "chart of death to men, destruction to nations," and he warned against the renewal of the Washington treaty.

"Plain it must be," Senator Lewis pointed out, "that should we enter the deal, and it is disobeyed by any of its parties, the United States must be called on by the nations involved to lend ourselves to enforce the compact. This means war upon the United States by the nations we threaten to force to obedience, or war from the nations we refuse to aid in the enforcement."

"To the United States nothing but evil and danger awaits our entrance into any international contract with foreign nations preparing for war on each other."

WHEN Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau recently commended "a public spirited citizen" for reporting the activities of income tax consultants, he was alluding to Thomas N. McCarter, president of the New Jersey Public Service corporation and of the Edison Electric Institute. Mr. McCarter gave testimony before a District of Columbia grand jury and that body returned an indictment against four persons, two of them treasury employees. They are charged with conspiracy to defraud the government.

Those named in the indictment were: John W. Hardgrove, formerly associate chief conferee of the internal revenue bureau, who was dismissed by Secretary Morgenthau after an investigation.

Henning R. Nelson, formerly an auditor in the bureau, dismissed along with Hardgrove.

Frank B. Nelson of New York city, practicing privately as a tax consultant.

Richard E. Callaghan, also of New York, associated with McEihill in the tax consulting business.

## Manure Dressing Proves Good Plan

### Wheat Yields Increased and the Following Hay Crop Will Be Larger.

By Earl E. Barnes, Agronomist, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.—WNU Service.

Top-dressing wheat with manure in the winter has proved very beneficial to wheat and to the new seeding. From this practice benefits to the following corn crop also may be expected, according to the results of experiments on seven county and district experiment farms in Ohio.

In the experiments the corn and wheat also received broadcast applications of 200 to 300 pounds of 20 per cent superphosphate, and during the winter before the land was plowed for corn, eight tons of manure were applied. The amount of top dressing given the wheat averaged 4½ tons of manure an acre.

Over a five-year period the winter applications of manure on wheat caused six bushel increases in yield. The hay crop following the wheat was boosted almost half a ton an acre. Increases in eastern Ohio were considerably larger than in western Ohio.

The effect on the corn crop, it is estimated from an experiment conducted at Wooster, is to produce a yield 85 to 90 per cent as large as when the manure is applied to the sod to be plowed down for corn.

This method of using manure offers protection to the wheat from heaving during the late winter and early spring, and furnishes the much needed nitrogen in the spring when rapid growth of the wheat plant demands it.

In dry springs it also aids greatly in conserving moisture in the soil near the surface, a condition which is almost sure to lead to an excellent stand of clover.

An application of manure on wheat is a fundamental soil treatment on farms where difficulty is encountered in getting a good stand of grass and clover.

## Badly Weathered Hay Is Not Best for Dairy Herd

At the federal experimental farm at Beltsville, Md., cows have been kept continuously on grain and hay rations, with no pasture for a period of seven years. These cows have maintained their health, productiveness and reproductive capacity just as well as cows that had access to pasture during the summer. In all experiments in which green, No. 1 hay was used. Alfalfa was used in most of the experiments, but in one case U. S. No. 1 timothy was fed, and no bad results of any kind were noticed. However, where poor quality, No. 3 timothy was fed, the cows fell off in milk yield, and many of the calves were born dead. The green hay seems to give good results because of its high vitamin-A content. Badly weathered hay has lost much of its vitamin-A, and so is not satisfactory as a feed for dairy cows.

## Lime Content of Soil

Lime content of the soil usually determines the type of forage that can be grown, according to the agronomy department at the Ohio State university. Alfalfa can be grown only on soils which contain a natural supply of lime or which have been liberally limed. Red clover does well on soils which have received one-half to two-thirds the lime applications necessary to prepare them for alfalfa. Alsike and timothy establish themselves with difficulty on very acid soils unless manure has been used liberally. Bluegrass pastures will thrive on soils whose lime content is satisfactory for red clover if fertilizer needs are supplied.

## Packing Citrus Fruits

The best grades of all the citrus fruits, says the bureau of agricultural economics, are very carefully sorted at the packing houses, washed, polished, wrapped in paper, and packed in crates for shipment. Such fruit rates a higher retail price because of its fine appearance, due to the care and labor expended on it, but it is not in any way improved in flavor. Oranges are often attractively packed in open mesh bags holding one or two dozen oranges so that the housewife can see the condition and size of what she is getting, and buy in small quantities, avoiding waste.

## Trees Cut Swiss Soil Erosion

Probably nowhere is the value of trees in the prevention of soil erosion and shifting recognized more keenly than in Switzerland, where mountain slides are a constant menace. For this reason the forest laws of that country are very strict. Every precaution is taken to preserve masses of trees that might serve as natural ramps, and it is illegal for a resident to fell a tree, even on his own property, without government consent.

# BRISBANE THIS WEEK

A Long Swim  
Money Flows West  
\$5 for \$3.39  
Not So Barren

The new year, 1935, latest contribution of Father Time to the long chain of beads called "eternity," is here, and we are in it.

We shall continue to read opinions and rumors, plans and criticism of plans, in our slow progress to prosperity's shore. It is a long swim when you are thrown overboard in the middle of Lake Superior. This country was thrown overboard in another lake of superior prosperity and unlimited expectations back in 1929.

Farmers, newspapers devoted to the farmers' interest, big bankers of the East, are interested in the fact that the money tide that for so long flowed from producers in the West to accumulators in the East, is now flowing in the other direction.

The money tide goes out toward the farms of wheat raisers and stock, in the West and Middle West, and to the cotton farmers in the South. It is as though the Great Lakes had been tilted upward at the eastern end, and the waters sent rushing toward the Rocky mountains.

The tide will not flow long in that western direction, probably. Men that have the mortgages and collect the interest accumulate the money, in the long run.

Long ago, a man wagered that he would stand on London bridge offering genuine gold sovereigns for a shilling each and find few takers. The gold sovereigns were genuine, but nobody would buy. Mel Smith, a circus official called "Lucky" Smith, bet that Los Angeles citizens would refuse to buy genuine \$5 bills for \$3.39. Hundreds walked by, looked at the genuine bills. Some cried "Fake!" Only two purchased. "Lucky" Smith won a \$100 wager.

Many Americans wish they had been as skeptical about certain stock back in 1929.

The distinguished George W. Russell of Ireland, who signs his writings "AE," says, "I am always struck by the terrible barrenness of rural life in America." He thinks we must "find some way to enrich it," and if we don't, "then the disease which destroyed ancient Italy will eat into America. You will no longer feed yourselves, and you will be struck with palsy of bread and circuses."

Mr. Russell may find greater richness in Irish farmhouses, but it is a richness of the character and of the mind, not of surroundings. There is little barrenness about, other than intellectual, in our rural life with its automobile, radio, moving pictures within easy reach, rural delivery, porcelain bath tubs, mail order catalogues, prayer meetings, revivals, annual circuses, the public library, soon reached by automobile.

Next summer our ships of war, "venturing almost to Oriental waters," will engage in far-flung war games covering more than 5,000,000 square miles of the Pacific ocean.

How interesting that will be, and how rapidly those ships would come running home to hide away in port if a few large bombing planes should sail out from Asia, from Tokyo or Russia's Vladivostok, over those 5,000,000 square miles of the Pacific, and drop explosive bombs and poison gas bombs on the battleships!

Geological explorers from the Byrd expedition, near the South pole, report important veins of mineral quartz, discovered in mountains along the coast of Marie Byrd Land.

If the geologists should bring back actual samples rich in gold, how quickly men would find a way to reach those mountains, how indifferent to death they would be in the effort to get there!

We have piled up in Washington already \$8,000,000,000 worth of gold. What would happen if Byrd should discover a mountain containing \$1,000,000,000,000 in gold? That would be overdoing it, for instantly our \$8,000,000,000 in gold would shrink in value to almost nothing, and the gold metal would be only metal, not precious.

A wise motto of earlier days was: "When in doubt, refrain."

In Russia and other countries where the will of one takes the place of slow decisions by the majority, the maxim reads:

"When in doubt, shoot."

Moscow reports 14 more executed to avenge the killing of Sergel Kirov, making 117 lives taken to expiate that one murder.

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