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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Farm Board to Abandon Efforts to Stabilize Wheat Prices — Austro-German Customs Union Stirs Protests.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



NO MORE attempts to stabilize the price of wheat by large purchases on the open market will be made under the auspices of the federal farm board after the 1931 crop is marketed, which probably will be done by May 31. This was the announcement of the board, whose new chairman, James C. Stone, and new member, Sam H. Thompson of Illinois, have just taken office. In making its decision known, the board pointed to its past purchases of large wheat stocks and asserted that "it cannot indefinitely hold more than it sells nor indefinitely hold what it has bought." Farmers must know, the board continued, that "it cannot follow a regular policy of buying at prices above the market and selling below cost."

No definite sales policy for its present big wheat holdings was announced by the board. There were indications, however, that should the farmers display a tendency to help themselves by restricting wheat acreage, the disposal of the 1930 crop holdings would be spread over a long period and sold slowly.

In the market the immediate effect of the announcement was of course a sharp break in prices. On the Chicago Board of Trade wheat deferred futures reached the lowest level since 1895. July touched 59 1/2 and September went down to 60 cents.

There was quick recovery, however, when the stabilization corporation announced this plan: Effective April 1, the corporation will quote a selling price of 82 1/2 cents a bushel f. o. b. No. 2 hard winter wheat at Chicago for ordinary quality, with premiums asked for grain of high protein and quality. This price will be advanced 1/2 cent a bushel on April 10 and 1/2 cent a bushel every ten days thereafter until June 30, the date which marks the expiration of the current crop year.

In Washington it was asserted that it was now certain that farm relief legislation would be a major issue during the next session of congress, and something new in this line may be devised. Senator Borah is still urgently supporting the export debit-entree plan, and Senator Watson of Indiana prefers the equalization fee scheme. Senator McNary also likes the latter program but says he cannot see how it will help solve the present problem in the face of the world wheat surplus. President Hoover is opposed to both these plans. Borah suggests that the present wheat surplus in this country be sent to China or destroyed. The European powers will not let it be dumped on their markets.

FOR two years the Treasury department has been investigating charges that European safety match manufacturers were disposing of their products in this country at low prices to the injury of domestic producers. Evidently the charges were found to be true, for Secretary Mellon issued an anti-dumping order against the importation of safety matches from eight countries.

Such action previously had been taken against Russian matches. The latest nations affected are Finland, Norway, Estonia, Sweden, Latvia, Austria, Holland and Poland.

MAYOR JIMMY Walker of New York has been given the opportunity to examine and reply to the charges of misfeasance and negligence in office filed against him. Gov. Franklin Roosevelt found himself in a difficult position when asked to oust the mayor or refer the matter to the state legislature for an inquiry, but he extricated himself by the simple expedient of forwarding the charges to Jimmy at his retreat in Palm Springs, Calif., and asking him to make answer when he returned to New York.

However, the affairs of the metropolis are to be thoroughly investigated, and Tammany may be approaching one of its euryptic eclipses. The state senate, by the strictly party vote of 23 to 24, adopted a resolution for an investigation by a legislative committee consisting of three senators and four assemblymen, and after a

protracted debate the assembly concurred with the senate, the vote being 76 to 70. The action of the senate was a surprise to the Democrats, for Mastick and Westall, the two Republican Westchester senators who had formerly blocked such a resolution, suddenly shifted their votes and went along with their colleagues.

National importance is given this New York scandal by its possible effect on the Democratic party's action in the national convention next year. It may greatly promote the chances of Franklin Roosevelt for the presidential nomination, or it may ruin them. He would be favored by those parts of the country in which the Democrats are politically dry if he were freed from the Tammany brand. But Al Smith is said to be cold to his candidacy, and National Chairman Rescob is, reported to be strongly in favor of giving the nomination to Owen D. Young. Tammany itself is split into two factions, one headed by Mayor Walker and John F. Curry and the other by Al Smith.



Secretary Adams

THROUGHOUT the battle maneuvers of the American fleet in Panama waters Secretary of the Navy Charles Francis Adams was a deeply interested observer. He returned to Washington with the firm conviction that, notwithstanding the development of aviation, the battleship is still the backbone of modern fighting fleets. "These big surface vessels are essential cogs in our naval fighting forces," said Mr. Adams, and his opinion coincides with those of the leading naval officers who participated in or watched the maneuvers.

In reports filed at the Navy department, such officers as Admiral William V. Pratt, chief of naval operations; Rear Admiral Joseph B. Reeves, and Rear Admiral Mark A. Bristol, chairman of the executive committee of the navy general board, agree that without battleship strength the United States would be powerless to prevent a major hostile movement across the ocean directed at this country.

REPEAL of the Illinois prohibition law and the search and seizure act was completed by the state senate by a vote of 26 to 24. The house had previously passed the repeal act, 91 to 55.

ORGANIZED LABOR in the United States is prepared to fight, with all the strength it possesses, any attempts to reduce wages. Such is the assertion of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. In a statement issued in Washington, he said: "Reductions in wages have been favored and encouraged by bankers and some employers whose desire for standard profits has overcome their better judgment. If they are persisted in, a return to normal conditions will be delayed for two years or more. It is only through the development of the purchasing power of working people to the highest possible point that a market can be found for the goods which we are producing in an ever increasing volume."

"In the light of these facts the American Federation of Labor conceives it to be its duty to resist, with all the influence and power at its command, any attempt on the part of employers to reduce wages. Furthermore it will be the policy of the American Federation of Labor to direct its efforts when favorable conditions permit, toward compelling those employers of labor who have reduced wages during this period of unemployment, to restore them."

GERMANY and Austria have announced that they are about to consummate a customs union, and have caused great disturbances in the so-called "chancelleries of Europe." Great Britain, France, Italy and especially Czechoslovakia have protested against the move and according to reports some of them have warned the two nations not to go ahead with their plan. The British position is that it is a violation of the protocol of 1922 in which the League of Nations reorganized

Austrian finances and Austria agreed to give equal tariff to all countries. The French, Italians and Czechs fear the proposed union is the first step toward the political union of Germany and Austria, which would violate the peace treaty. The Czechs are trying to bring the other countries of the little entente to their point of view, and the two German nations have invited Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Jugoslavia to enter the economic combination with them.

When the French, British and Italian ambassadors questioned Foreign Minister Curtius in Berlin, he replied in effect that Germany would not back down in its determination to put the tariff union into effect, but he assured them that this in no way heralded an eventual political unification with Austria. It was tolerably evident that Germany was willing to carry the matter to the world court at The Hague.

Briand, French foreign minister, was placed in an embarrassing position for the Austro-German plan is really a start toward his great scheme of an economic union of all Europe in which there shall be no tariff walls.



M. Norman

MONTAGU NORMAN, governor of the Bank of England, came to the United States Friday on one of his frequent quiet visits, having little to say to the press, as usual. His arrival interested financiers deeply, for it was believed he would go to Washington and that then or soon thereafter President Hoover would issue the call for the international silver conference which was given authorization by the last congress. Silver has been in a parlous state for many months, for, while production has not greatly increased, the sales by India on its return to the gold standard, and by other countries for the purpose of lessening the silver content of their coinages, have glutted the market. In 1925 its price was 62 cents an ounce, and it now sells for about half that.

NATIONALISTS of Porto Rico received no encouragement from President Hoover when he landed at San Juan and delivered his first address, which was made to the island legislature. On the contrary, he dwelt on the innumerable benefits the island had derived from its rule by the United States, predicted fine things for its future, and pledged the support and co-operation of his administration toward continued Porto Rican progress.

The island, said the President, has in the course of a single generation emerged from stagnation to a high place in the march of progress, and constitutes now "a magnificent example of what a capable and intelligent people may accomplish under free institutions." Mr. Hoover praised the efforts of Gov. Theodore Roosevelt to secure new channels of livelihood for the island's increased population.

President Hoover's reception in San Juan and everywhere else his automobile tour of the island took him was enthusiastic.

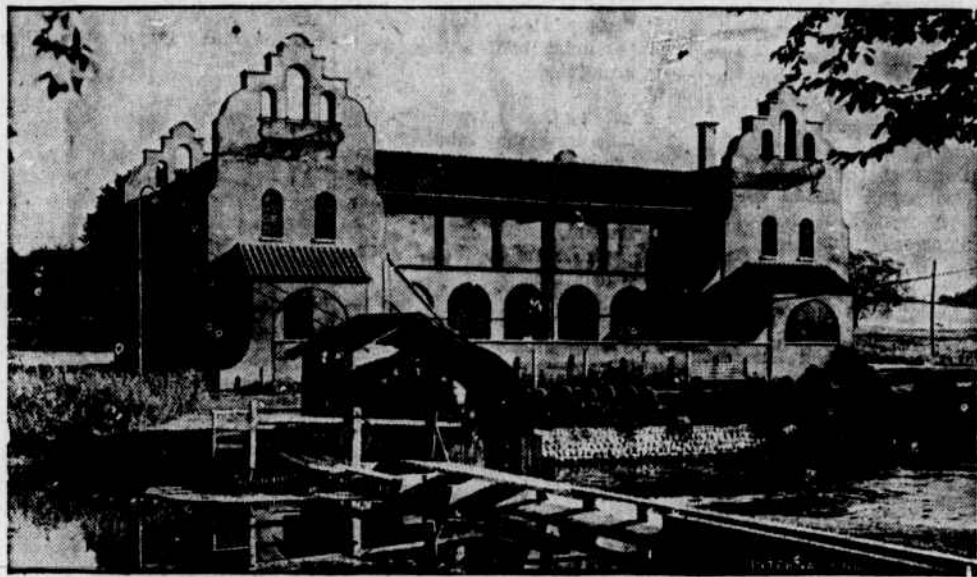
Wednesday was spent at St. Thomas, capital of the Virgin Islands, where the people welcomed him respectfully and told him plainly the needs of the little group that has just been placed under the control of the Department of the Interior. That night the Arizona began a leisurely return to Norfolk.

SECRETARY of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday on Tuesday, and the day was made notable by the joint award to him and his brother, Richard B. Mellon, of the medal of the American Institute of Chemists. Though neither of them is a scientist, they are thus honored as pioneer patrons of science who have given millions of dollars to promote it during the last score of years. Much of the practical results of the Mellon gifts have come from the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research which they established at the University of Pittsburgh in 1913. There all industry and many branches of science are furnished a place to make discoveries. The Mellons do not usually pay for these researches, nor receive any credit for them, although they furnish an important part of the scientific machinery.

"The Mellon Institute," says Dr. Frederick E. Brelviut, president of the Institute of Chemists, "is the West Point of our industrial system, assisting the United States to attain and hold its foremost position amongst the industrial nations of the world. Its activities have assisted in bringing the United States the largest chemical industry in the world."

Andrew W. Mellon

Suggested to Hoover for Summer Capitol



President Hoover has been invited by the Commercial club of Pelican Rapids, Minn., to spend his summer vacation at Dunn's lodge, 200 miles north of Minneapolis on the shore of Lake Lizzie. The picture shows Dunn's lodge.

Old Automobiles Turned Into Steel

400 Ancient Equipages Are Wrecked and Sent to Furnaces Every Day.

DETROIT.—Bound for the maw of a roaring, open hearth furnace through which they will pass to live again as new steel, nothing can be quite so pathetic looking as the hulks of once proud automobiles moving slowly forward on the disassembly line of a great automobile factory to be wrenched, rent and torn for the last bolt or nut that can be put to some useful service elsewhere.

From Appersons to Westcotts—cars of makes long since forgotten—the line stirs the imagination to wonder, for instance, what notables may have ridden in that old gray hearse with its owner's bas-relief monogram still shining brightly through the junk yard grime, or what young lovers courted in that "nobby" roadster, its stern emblazoned with a picture of an ocean liner, a lighthouse and a sailing vessel.

Four Hundred Wrecked Daily. Scores of men scattered along a disassembly line have been wrecking old cars at the rate of 400 every eight hours since last year, solving a problem as distressing to municipal authorities and property owners as it has been vexing, incidentally, to automobile dealers.

What such a wholesale wrecking program means in the removal from the highways of motor menaces to life and limb, in the elimination of the unsightly junk piles that litter the landscape, and in the conversion to new usefulness of materials that would otherwise go to waste, is obvious.

The derelicts hauled from junk piles or the old cars received in exchange for new automobiles are purchased from Ford dealers at a uniform rate of \$20 a car. There is no restriction as to age, condition or make of car and the only requirements are that each must have some semblance of tires and a battery and that the cars must be delivered by the dealer to the plant.

Thus far the program has been confined to the Detroit metropolitan area and no less than 60 different makes of cars, many of them long since out of production, have been wrecked, the dealers hauling them to the plant five, six or even seven on "long-reach" trucks.

Nothing in the old wrecks that were once abandoned in vacant lots or left to rust on junk heaps is thrown away. Three conveyors, hundreds of feet long, in the open-hearth building of the Rouge plant are utilized carrying steel scrap to the furnaces or carrying toward the salvage department materials other than steel to be put to varied uses.

Everything Used. As the derelicts move slowly along the conveyor a squad of wreckers attack them from all sides, tearing off fenders, bumpers, headlights, batteries, wheels and other exterior parts, while another group is removing the upholstery and interior fittings. The glass which is still intact and can be cut to size is used to glaze windows in buildings about the Rouge plant, and the rest is sent to the glass factory to be remelted. Floor boards are sent to packing departments to be used as crating or box material. The cotton and hair in the upholstery are separated, baled, and sold. Cloth and covers of all kinds, the

leather from roof, sides, and seats are sent to sewing machines nearby to be transformed into aprons and hand-pads for workmen or buffing and polishing wheels. Gasoline tanks are crushed and baled for the ultimate recovery of terne steel.

Within slightly more than two hours after the old car is first dragged onto the conveyor it is completely demolished and the frame, crushed by a gigantic 20-ton press, is being rammed into the furnace. Aside from the myriad uses to which the parts and materials of such wrecked cars are put the salvaging process has thus far produced more than 20,000 tons of high-grade steel.

Hunting and Fishing Now Big U. S. Industry

WASHINGTON.—Hunting and fishing in the United States are not mere pastimes; together they constitute a billion dollar industry.

This is according to the estimate of the senate's special committee on conservation of wild resources, which has been conducting a nation-wide survey under the chairmanship of Senator Frederick C. Walcott.

The investment in federal and state lands and equipment devoted to wild animals, birds, and fish, the report states, amounts to about half a billion dollars. Game lands and fish waters in private hands, it is estimated, amounts to another half billion, so that these outdoor recreations can hold up their heads, financially, with such "big time" indoor recreations as radio, the movies, and midget golf.

Based on records of hunting and fishing licenses issued, the committee estimated a number of hunters and

Woman Motorist Thrashes Policeman

LONDON.—Police Sergeant Sheehan stopped a car and advised the driver that the rear plates on the auto were not adjusted properly. It was all right with the driver, but the woman with him, Mrs. Marjorie Kenworthy, who was his wife, objected. She got out of the car and administered a good beating to Sheehan.

fishermen benefiting by these investments at thirteen millions. Hunters and fishermen form only a fraction of the whole group who enjoy the wild life display in national and state parks, forests, and game sanctuaries.

Senator Walcott and his committee feel that the federal government has not been doing its share toward the solution of wild life problems, and they recommend increased appropriations and larger personnel, both for carrying on work which lies strictly within the province of the federal government and for co-operation with the various states in meeting state problems.

Undies Stop Bullet Fired at Maine Sheriff

Houlton, Maine.—Next to himself, Deputy Sheriff Harry Young likes several suits of heavy winter underwear best.

The rigors of this north country town have taught him to always wear not a single union suit but several, from November to April.

Recently he had occasion to arrest a young man as an alleged robber. Suddenly the captive drew a revolver, shoved it against Deputy Sheriff Young's stomach and pulled the trigger.

Young, unharmed, found the bullet embedded in the suit of underwear nearest his body, according to his testimony in court.

Germans to Honor the War Horse



A model of the new monument which is to be erected in Berlin to honor the "War Horse." The sponsor of the monument is Field Marshal Von Mackensen, who led cavalry troops early in the war. It is the work of the well-known German sculptor, Professor Limburg.



THE KEEPER'S ANIMALS

When afternoon came, what should the animals see coming into the animal house but a great many children. There were boys and there were girls. And there were a few grown-ups.

The keeper led the way, saying: "Here are my fine animals." The animals stood up very straight at that, and said: "Thank you."

The lions roared in their wild way, "Thank you." The tigers roared in their wild way, "Thank you."

The bears, the zebras, the kangaroos, the hippopotamus family, the rhinoceros family, the leopards and all the others called out, "Thank you."

The children laughed with glee! They were not in the least frightened, for the keeper had said that the animals were most polite and would probably speak to their guests.

Only, he had said, their different ways of speaking sometimes sounded rather wild.

The children stopped in front of the giraffe's cage, for the keeper was giving a party in honor of Master Giraffe's birthday.

There was the giraffe looking very fine, and the keeper had put a birthday ribbon around his neck so that he would be all decorated and dressed up for the party.

Of course, it only covered a part of Master Giraffe's neck, for no ribbon could be wide enough to cover it all.

Next to Master Giraffe, in the yard alongside, was his mother, looking very proud and happy.

"Many happy returns of the day,"



A Birthday Ribbon Around His Neck

said the children. "How old is he?" they asked the keeper.

"He is one year old," he replied. At that, all the children burst out laughing.

"To think," they said, "that a great, tall, enormous creature like that is only one year old!"

Master Giraffe and his mother didn't seem to know just why the children were laughing, but they knew their laughs were friendly, so they smiled with pleasure.

In fact, Master Giraffe felt so happy that he leaned his head over into his mother's yard.

She put her head by his and they rubbed their heads together and kissed each other.

They were thinking such affectionate thoughts of each other which they couldn't express in any kind of language because the giraffes cannot make any real sounds at all.

Then the keeper planned to have the refreshments.

There was special food for the giraffes, of course. They had hay and vegetables, grain and meal, and mulberry leaves as a very special birthday treat.

He had made a trip all for the purpose of getting the mulberry leaves. He had ice cream for the children, and they enjoyed it so much.

But it did seem fine that for the giraffe birthday party they should have the food they like better—or as well—as children like a birthday cake—mulberry leaves.

PUZZLES

What is that which makes everything visible but is itself unseen? Light.

What author's name repeats the waiter's advice regarding a tough steak? Chaucer (chaw, sir).

Why did the man call his rooster Robinson? Because it Crusoe.

When is a pie like a poet? When it's Browning.

What miss is that whose company no one wants? Mis-fortune.

What misses are those whose days are always unlucky? Mis-chance, mis-fortune and mis-hap.