

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

VOL. LVII.

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 1931.

NO. 46.

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Opening of the Seventy-Second Congress—President Hoover and Secretary Mellon Call for Higher Taxes—Germany Reduces Everything.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WITH the Democrats in control of the house and John Nance Garner of Texas elected and installed as speaker, the Seventy-second congress began its work on time. Representatives of the majority party celebrated their new status in the lower chamber with wild cheering and "rebel" yells. But the senate was fittingly more sedate and its first session was brief and formal. Next day the fireworks began in that chamber with the anticipated revolt of the progressives against the re-election of Senator Moses of New Hampshire as president pro tempore. They have never forgiven him for calling them "sons of the wild jackass," so they gave their seven votes to Norris of Nebraska. The Democrats voted solidly for Pittman of Nevada but fell short of the required forty-five votes by three, so there was a deadlock that threatened to last a long time.

The most interesting event in the senate was the swearing in of Mrs. Hattie Caraway of Arkansas to fill the seat of her late husband. Introduced by Senator Robinson, she took the oath of office, signed the register and quietly returned to her seat, almost in tears. Her associates all gathered about to congratulate her, but there was no gaiety in the affair for the memory of her husband was ever present. In all, sixteen new senators presented themselves to take the oath, nearly all of them being first term Democrats.

Nearly one hundred new members of the house were installed, and so many of them were Democrats that Mr. Garner won the speakership by the following vote: Garner 218; Snell, Republican, 207; Schneider of Wisconsin, progressive Republican, 5. Kvale of Minnesota, the lone Farmer-Laborite, voted for Schneider. Of course all the other officers of the house are now Democrats.

The first actual work in the house was the adoption of new rules, so liberalized that it will no longer be easy for bills to be pigeonholed by the committees to which they have been referred. Now 145 members can procure the discharge of a committee and bring a bill to the floor for a vote. This change was made especially for the benefit of the proponents of modification of the dry laws, and the stage was set for an early vote on some of their bills, which will put the representatives on record though there is no hope yet for the passage of the measures.

While congress was assembling and going through the business of the first day, the Communist "hunger marchers" who had traveled to the Capital by automobile and auto truck from various parts of the country besieged the Capitol building and the White House in vain efforts to lay their demands before the legislators and the President. They were rebuffed, fairly, gently, by the police and other officials, and next day started home, still discontented and defiant.

ECONOMIES in the navy and army which are urged by the President were the objects of further attacks. Early in the week President W. H. Gardner of the Navy League came out with a new assault on the administration policies in that respect, criticizing a statement by Secretary Stimson, hitting back at the Hammond committee, assailing the President for slowing up cruiser construction and calling on congress for an investigation of Mr. Hoover's financial policy toward the navy.

Next, National Commander Stevens of the American Legion conveyed to the President the legion's demand that he approve authorization of warship construction necessary to bring the American fleet up to the maximum tonnage limits of the London treaty. The organization also asked congress and the administration to rescind the economies for the military establishment and to renew for the army, National Guard, R. O. T. C., and other military activities the same sums appropriated for the current year.

Finally came the annual report of Rear Admiral Frank B. Upham, chief of the bureau of navigation, which termed the administration policy of reduction a severe blow to the national defense. He said that history shows that decreases in the navy eventually result in expenditures many times greater than the temporary savings.

Mr. Stevens of the American Legion also called personally at the White House and told Mr. Hoover the legion not only is for adequate national defense but also is in favor of submitting to the people the matter of repeal or modification of the dry laws.

PRESIDENT HOOVER on Tuesday transmitted to congress his message on the state of the Union, in which he sketched the economic crisis confronting the country, related in considerable detail the measures he has initiated to alleviate the business depression and unemployment and recommended in general terms legislation creating additional instrumentalities for the same purpose and increasing taxes to meet a three and a half billion dollar deficit this year and next.

Regular Republicans declared the message represented constructive statesmanship of a high order, while Democrats and progressive Republicans took it as a challenge. Generally, it was accepted as the opening gun of the 1932 campaign. There was much comment on the fact that no mention was made of prohibition.

On Wednesday Mr. Hoover sent in his budget message, containing the administration's program of taxation and other measures of government financing. At the same time the annual report of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon was made public. This called for increased rates on personal and corporation incomes, inheritances, tobacco and capital stock sales.

New levies would be imposed on automobiles, radios, telephone, telegraph and cable messages, amusement tickets, checks and drafts and realty sales. Postal charges would be boosted. Exemptions from income taxes would be lowered to include 1,700,000 new individuals within the scope of the federal levy.

The Democrats in congress immediately began an attack on this program, saying they would soon have ready one of their own.

THIRD in the list of Presidential messages came the one on foreign relations, which contained the request that congress ratify the Hoover moratorium. More important than that was the suggestion that the war debt commission should be reconstituted with power to reopen the debt settlements. Though Mr. Hoover reiterated his disapproval of cancellation of the war debts, such action, or at least a further reduction of the debts seemed, to many congressmen, to be implicit in his proposal. So many of them object to either course that a long debate was in prospect.

HIS national socialists or "Nazis" now being in control of three German states and constituting the most powerful political party in the country. Adolf Hitler has been talking freely to correspondents on his intentions. Briefly, he proposes, when his party is invested with the governing power by way of the ballot box, to set up a dictatorship on the Italian model; to recognize and pay to the fullest of Germany's ability all her foreign debts contracted in business and normal transactions but to reject "political blackmail"; to insist upon a new war debt arrangement; and to destroy communism in Germany. He declares there will be no Nazi march on Berlin, and denies that he seeks the presidency.

Hitler's challenge to the government brought swift response from Chancellor Brüning in the form of a warning that President Von Hindenburg would invoke martial law if necessary to save the constitution. At the same time the President signed and made public a drastic emergency decree designed to close up what Brüning called "the deflation period imposed upon Germany." The decree reduces wage scales to the level of 1927 and cuts rents, food prices and about all other living costs. It also reduces interest rates, imposes compensatory taxes on imports and strengthens measures against the flight of capital.

JAPAN and China accepted the proposal of the League of Nations council for cessation of hostilities in Manchuria, while a neutral commission inquires into the facts, but both nations made reservations that rendered the agreement little more than a form by means of which the council saves its face.

Premier Wakatsuki's Japanese cabinet decided to resign because of dissensions, and it was thought a coalition ministry would be formed with Inui, leader of the Seiyukai party, as premier.

GERMANY'S capacity to pay reparations and especially her ability to resume payments next summer are being studied by the consultative committee of the Bank for International Settlements at Basel, Switzerland. Walter W. Stewart, American member, refusing to accept the chairmanship, that place was given to Dr. Alberto Beneduce of Italy. Carl Joseph Mehlhor was the first person heard, the burden of his argument being that Germany could no longer pay reparations. This is, indeed, the view of millions of Germans of all parties.

THREE great farm groups, the American Farm bureau, the National Farmers' union and the Grange, in session in Chicago, united on plans to fight in congress for surplus crop control. Their leaders said their demands would be for the export debenture and the equalization fee, and that their disagreements of the past on these matters had been adjusted. Amendments to the agricultural marketing act to permit the farm board to use those principles will be introduced in the senate and house soon after the holiday recess. The organizations will offer no objections to the program of the farm board other than the stabilization operations.

MISS JANE ADDAMS, founder of Hull House in Chicago, and Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, were jointly awarded the Nobel peace prize for 1931 by the Nobel Institute of Oslo, Norway. The prize amounts to \$40,000. Both of them have been indefatigable workers for international peace.

NOT long ago the Belgian government intimidated to Archduke Otto, pretender to the Hungarian throne, that his presence in Belgium was proving embarrassing, so the young man went over to England incognito to visit a British duke family. Now it is rumored in London that plans are afoot to put him on the throne through a coup that will be a reminder of the way Carol returned to Rumania. The story is that a group of Hungarian noblemen, in England ostensibly for hunting, really went to accept delivery of a powerful seaplane which is ready to carry the archduke to Lake Balaton in the center of Hungary where he would take oath as king in a miniature chapel that has been built in the plane and dedicated to St. Stephen.

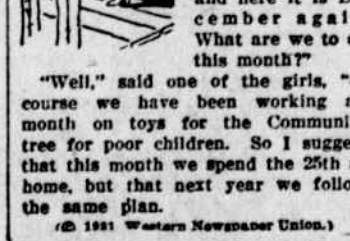
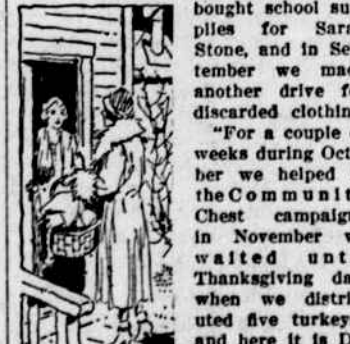
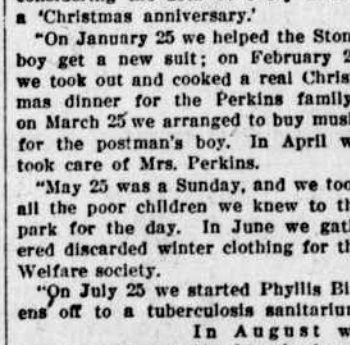
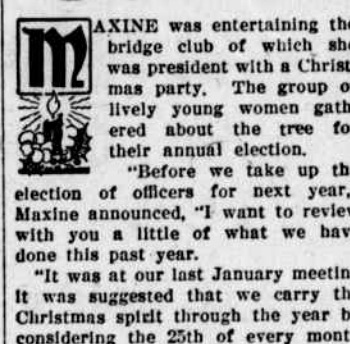
Monarchists believe that if Otto returns to Hungary the peasant support of his cause will be strengthened and solidified and he can be established on the throne. Premier Mussolini is known to approve of the Hapsburg restoration, which gives the friends of Otto lots of encouragement.

ONE of the interesting department reports of the week was that of Postmaster General Brown. It showed that the department came out \$146,000,189 behind in the last fiscal year, which is almost \$48,000,000 above the deficit of the previous year. Mr. Brown repeated his recommendation that the letter rate be raised from 2 cents to 2½ cents, stating that on the present volume this would bring in \$50,000,000 a year additional.

"A 2½-cent rate would, however, obviously fall far short of producing adequate revenues at the present time," the report said. "The deficit for 1931 attributable to strictly postal operations was more than \$98,000,000 and if present trends are maintained the net deficit for the current year will be in the neighborhood of \$150,000,000."

"This raises the question whether, in view of the already overtaxed condition of the general treasury, it would not be advisable, pending the return of normal conditions, to fix a 3-cent rate for letter mail."

"Well," said one of the girls, "of course we have been working all month on toys for the Community tree for poor children. So I suggest that this month we spend the 25th at home, but that next year we follow the same plan."



RS. VAN DUSEN sat waiting over a letter from her son. "The poor, dear boy! How dreadful! Marooned up there with all those horrible people!" A bad storm had prevented him from taking the weekly boat to the mainland. There would be no way of getting home until after Christmas.

In the meantime the subject of her despair was yelling the loudest of fourteen lively boys. They swarmed up a steep hill dragging sleds. "Hey, Mr. Van Dusen . . . bet I beat you this time! Say, my ripper is the fastest on the slide! Bet yer a herring I'll touch the goal first!"

Down they went again, sleds skimming like birds upon the icy tracks. Feet guiding them from behind. Eyes fastened on the tricky turn at the bottom. Ransome Van Dusen (seventh in line by that name, son and heir to an old name and vast fortune) . . . saw that someone was bound to have a nasty spill. He was directly abreast of two youngsters. There was room for two to squeak by . . . if they had good luck. Never for three.

Van Dusen had tobogganed in Switzerland, and ridden surfboards in Hawaii, and climbed a few Alps in Italy, but it is safe to say that he had never suffered a keener moment of fear than he experienced in this far-away village of Newfoundland . . . sliding down hill with fourteen village children.

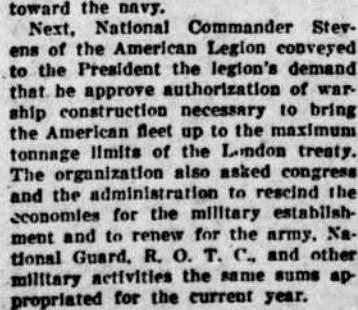
Van Dusen was keen, but Sandy Galt was keener. He, too, saw the danger ahead. Somebody had to be squeezed. You couldn't stop the sleds now . . . they were going too fast. "Look out," yelled Ransome, trying to take the inside near the sharp, rocky turn. "Look out yourself!" shrieked Andy, and kicked out with a foot, spilling the man sideways from his sled. Andy himself swerved to the inside. Two more boys crowded close. Three sleds came together with a crash! Ransome on top . . . without his sled. That evening he sat by Sandy's bed and told him stories, so that the boy partly forgot the pain in his broken leg. It was Christmas eve and Ransome said he was never happier in his life. "I've never had a better friend than you, Sandy," he said. "You're some fine little sport. Don't worry . . . things will be all right for you. I'm going to keep you for a friend . . . all my life! Too bad mother has to miss this. She doesn't know what it is to have a good time. Have an apple, Sandy, old fellow?"

ONE of the disadvantages under which the modern child labors is that there are too many kinds of playthings and possessions showered upon him at Christmas or on his birthday, or at other present-giving times. A little child is often so bewildered by the array of gifts he receives at Christmas that he scarcely knows where to begin when it comes to opening them.

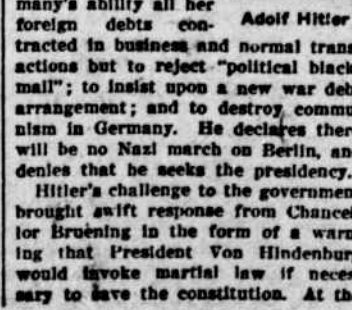
A child specialist of the bureau of home economics of the United States Department of Agriculture believes that far fewer toys and games, and those of a very simple kind, should be given children at any time, but especially at Christmas. A selection should be made among the things which will enable the child to prolong his enjoyment by using them constantly—things he can do something with, not simply looked at or watch another person wind up and set going.

To avoid some of the bad effects of too many gifts at Christmas time, an idea might be borrowed from the popular "sunshine package" that is often sent to convalescents or new mothers. For an invalid, such a package consists of a number of small, interesting gifts to be opened one at a time, daily, for an equal number of days. For the mother of a new baby, it should contain ten or a dozen small articles to add to the baby's layette—

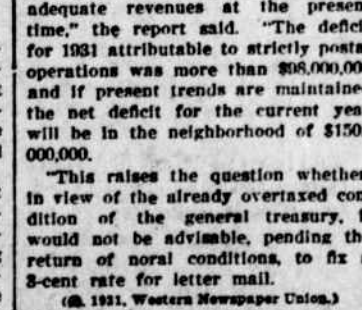
these, also, to be opened one each day during the mother's stay in the hospital. Why not send the small child a "holiday package," containing enough little gifts for the child to look forward to on each day of the ensuing vacation period? These need not be expensive articles. If possible they should provide the child with something pleasant to do on the day that they are opened, something not too difficult for his abilities. Children love to open packages. There are myriad possibilities among the crayons, paints, small and large blocks, pattern or design-making toys, tools, sewing materials, tiny doll-house furnishings, and, of course, among the children's books. A pair of warm gloves or a bright handkerchief, might be tucked in among the other things, according to the child's age and the amount one wishes to spend.



Speaker J. N. Garner



President Hoover



Mrs. Caraway

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