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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Chancellor Chamberlain Says Great Britain Wants War Debt Cancellation—Inflationists Lose in Senate—Lame Duck Amendment Ratified.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

GREAT BRITAIN has been invited to discuss with the United States the war debts with a view to revision and possible reduction, the invitation having been extended by the Hoover administration with the almost certain concurrence of President-Elect Roosevelt. The conference, if the British accept, will be held in March; and it will be followed immediately by similar conferences with the nations that are not in default in payment to this country, namely, Italy, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Latvia.

But Secretary of State Stimson, in sending out the invitations, omitted France, Belgium, Poland, Hungary and Estonia, the nations that have defaulted; and this, too, it is understood, met with the approval of Mr. Roosevelt, who will be President when the negotiations are under way.

However, there were indications in Washington that Mr. Roosevelt will have arranged separate conferences with the defaulters. England is especially interested in having France included in such arrangements as may be made, believing a final settlement of debt and economic subjects cannot well be reached unless France is taken into account.

Representative Rainey of Illinois, Democratic floor leader in the house, seemed to be roused by the news. "The conferences won't amount to anything, in my opinion," Rainey said, "because the American people are not going to stand for a reduction in the debts.

"The debt conferences should be linked with the world economic conference. The thing to do is to bring about a removal of international trade barriers so that trade can be revived. The conferences already projected hold only a possibility of opening up trade routes and giving the debtors a chance to pay."

England accepted the invitation, and her stand on the war debt question was stated plainly by Chancellor Neville Chamberlain in an address before the Leeds Chamber of Commerce. Briefly, the British government will ask either cancellation or reduction so drastic that it will almost amount to the same thing. If this cannot be obtained, said Chamberlain, the settlement reached must be final and must not involve resumption of the German reparations. "To disturb the Lausanne agreement," he said, "would be to reopen old wounds and to destroy for an indefinite period all prospect of agreement on matters affecting the happiness and prosperity not merely of Europe but of the whole world."

Undertaking to explain the matter to "the farmer of the Middle West," the chancellor said that if the war debts payments were to be resumed they could not be made by loans or by further shipments of gold. "Effective means of paying," he continued, "would have to be found and they could only be found by increasing sales of foreign goods to America or, what would come to the same thing, by diminishing purchases from America."

INFLATIONISTS are becoming more vociferous and apparently more numerous daily in Washington, but at this writing they have not got anywhere. Their first big effort was put forth during debate on the Glass banking bill in the senate. Wheeler of Montana, Independent Democrat, offered an amendment providing for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one—the old formula of William Jennings Bryan—and Huey Long of Louisiana proposed another amendment authorizing the government purchase of silver and stabilization at approximately 14.35 to 1.

After violent discussion both these schemes were defeated, by a vote of 56 to 18 in each case. During the debate Senator Tom Connally of Texas increased the perplexity of the senate by announcing he was preparing a measure to debase the gold content of the dollar by one-third and perhaps, if it were constitutional, to forbid individuals making contracts calling for payment in dollars of current weight and fineness. Both Senator Glass and Senator Fess argued strongly against all the inflation proposals, as did Reed of Pennsylvania.

After being badly mangled by amendments the Glass banking bill was passed by the senate. Its fate in the house is problematical. PRESIDENT HOOVER vetoed the first deficiency bill, carrying appropriations of \$31,000,000 and the house upheld his action, the vote being 192 to 158. The President disapproved of the measure because he and Attorney General Mitchell held unconstitutional a provision placing control of all substantial refunds from income, gift and inheritance taxes in the hands of a joint congressional committee. Senator McKellar indicated that he would make another attempt to remove control over refunds from the treasury.

MR. ROOSEVELT, in Warm Springs after his inspection of Muscle Shoals, was busy studying the problems that will come before him and conferred with many notable men of his party and a few who are not of that persuasion. Among his callers were several who, according to the cabinet makers, have good chances of being offered portfolios. Among these was Bronson Cutting, the senator from New Mexico who bolted the Republican ticket last fall and helped elect Roosevelt. The gossip was that he would be made secretary of the interior if he were willing to accept the place. Senator Cutting was accompanied on his visit by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, another "rebel" Republican.

Bernard M. Baruch of New York, chairman of the emergency national transportation committee, also was in Warm Springs helping the President-Elect prepare his program and giving advice especially on the railroad situation. There was talk that he might be appointed secretary of state, probably the only cabinet position he would take, though many still thought that position would go to either Senator Walsh of Montana, Owen D. Young or Norman Davis. Mr. Roosevelt told the correspondents he might announce one cabinet choice before going on his yacht trip, but no more than one. Presumably that will be Jim Farley, who it is conceded will be postmaster general.

FARMERS are to have the opportunity of borrowing \$90,000,000 from Uncle Sam with which to produce this year's crops, unless the bill passed by congress is killed by a Presidential veto. The measure makes available the sum named of the unused balance of \$200,000,000 of R. F. C. funds allocated to agriculture. The loans will be made for planting, following and cultivation, and the secretary of agriculture is empowered to exact from borrowers agreements to reduce acreage not to exceed 30 per cent. One million dollars is allocated for feed for farm live stock in drought and storm stricken areas.

Farm bloc members of congress defended the bill, asserting there would be widespread suffering on the farms unless such loans were authorized. Many members, however, attacked it

as paternalistic, socialistic and bound to increase farm product surpluses. Snell of New York, minority leader, declared it was utterly inconsistent with the pending domestic allotment measure, the purpose of which is to increase farm product prices and decrease acreage.

The senate agriculture committee began hearings on the domestic allotment bill Wednesday, hoping they would be completed in a week or so. The same arguments for and against it that were heard in the house were repeated.

ELIMINATION of the citizens' military training camps as an economy move was rejected by the house, which added \$2,500,000 to the War department appropriation bill to insure their continuance. Also \$500,000 was added to the appropriation for the reserve officers' corps. The measure was then passed.

The senate finance committee reported the house beer bill amended to include wine and to provide 3.05 per cent alcoholic content. This measure may get through congress before adjournment but probably will be vetoed if it does.

ALEXANDER, the handsome young king of Yugoslavia, accompanied by Queen Marie and his foreign minister, Bosko Jettich, spent the week in Rumania visiting King Carol at the latter's country place, Sinaia palace. Officially it was just a family visit, Marie being Carol's sister, but the correspondents said it was for the purpose of seeking a common front on the question of equal armaments, due to come up for discussion in Geneva on January 31. The little entente powers, which include these two nations and Czechoslovakia, did not like the action of the great powers in giving Germany judicial equality in armaments without consulting the little entente, and they propose now to demand more consideration when important matters come up at Geneva.

King Alexander was especially anxious to get Rumania's backing on a protest which Yugoslavia plans to raise against Italy's alleged pouring of machine guns and munitions into Hungary through Austria. Diplomats in Bucharest said an important side-issue of the royal visit would be a private conference concerned with the problem of restoration of former King George as the ruler of Greece. Such restoration, it was explained, would be immensely valuable to Yugoslavia, since a friendly Greek government would secure use of Saloniki harbor for Yugoslavia should circumstances demand.

SOUTH AMERICA'S two unofficial swars attracted considerable attention during the week. Colombia sent a joint note to signers of the Kellogg pact asking that they call upon Peru not to violate the treaty at Leticia, toward which a Colombian flotilla was steaming to recapture the town from the Peruvian Nationalists who seized it some time ago. The place was ceded to Colombia by Peru under a treaty signed in 1922. The Peruvian government asked the League of Nations to order suspension of "all measures of force" in the Leticia area.

Secretary of State Stimson hurriedly called to his home the diplomatic representatives of the powers signatory to the Kellogg pact to consider this critical situation. He then sent a note to Peru invoking the pact and making it plain that the United States considered Peru was in the wrong in the dispute. Bolivians and Paraguayans were fighting desperately for possession of Fort Nanawa in the disputed Gran Chaco and both sides claimed the advantage. The battle lasted for days and the casualties were numerous.

REPORTS from Tokyo said the Japanese cabinet had decided that Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations was inevitable and had instructed Yosuke Matsuoka to restate his country's position in regard to Manchuria and then leave Geneva for home. Foreign Minister Yasuya Uchida was understood to have informed the cabinet that application of paragraph four of article fifteen by the league, under which recommendation for definite action in the Manchurian dispute can be made, appeared almost certain. The cabinet, it was said, agreed that this step would be followed by condemnation of Japan's action in recognizing the Manchukuo independent government headed by Henry Pu Yi, the former emperor.

PRESIDENT EAMON DE VALERA won a smashing victory in the Irish Free State elections, his party gaining votes everywhere at the expense of that of William Cosgrave, his chief opponent.

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Japanese Priests on Their First Pilgrimage



CARRYING bundles, in which all their worldly possessions are wrapped, these Japanese priests of the Koselji temple at Uji, near Kyoto, make a strange picture as they leave the temple on their first pilgrimage after having completed their first year of study.

DATES TOOTHsome, NUTRITIOUS

THE perfect date, colorful, translucent, and altogether delicious, is now an American product, thanks to the untiring effort of our date growers. Arabian dates are still shipped into our country in large quantities, but nothing so far has reached the perfection of the home grown.

It will probably be some time before we can supply the demand with the home product, for the date is so well liked and is used for confections so largely, as well as for ordinary food.

With a handful of nuts and a half dozen dates, a glass of orange juice, one need not worry over calories or hunger.

Dates are enjoyed in bread, cake, cookies, chopped with nuts and molded into bars, stuffed with nuts or preserved fruit or fondant; added to salads they give just the note of sweetness that any salad needs. They take the place of raisins or combine with them in desserts of various kinds.

Date Pie.—Cook one pound of dates that have been pitted, with one cupful of water and one tablespoonful of lemon juice; cook until a thick paste is formed, then add two tablespoonfuls of orange juice and let stand until cold. Bake in pastry shell and fill with the mixture, top with lightly sweetened cream and serve.

As filling for sandwiches to give the children for luncheon, they are perfectly desirable. In stuffed dates, try any or all of the following:

Peanut butter, moistened with orange juice and a little cream.

Use fondant to which chopped cherries, ginger, candied peel has been added.

Almonds finely chopped, mixed with a little grated maple sugar and cream to moisten.

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Puts on Champ's Belt



Just before leaving New York for a vacation in Bermuda, Jack Sharkey, world's heavyweight champion, donned the belt worn by champions of his class before him, these including John L. Sullivan, Jim Corbett, Bob Fitzsimmons and Jim Jeffries. Thus decked, Jack posed for the photographers.

CHILDREN'S BEDTIME STORY

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

MERRY LITTLE BREEZES LEARN THE JOY OF WORK

There's nothing like some honest work to make the minutes swiftly fly. To fill the day with golden joy. And set the hours skipping by.

ALL summer long the Merry Little Breezes of Old Mother West Wind had played on the Green Meadows and in the Green Forest. To dance and play was what they were made for. At least that is what they seemed to think. Why anyone should work was something they couldn't understand in spite of the fact that Old



Happy Jack and Chatterer Were Still Quarreling.

Mother West Wind herself worked every day. When early in the morning she would turn them out of the big bag to play they would watch her go away to turn the windmills that pumped the water for the boats, to blow white-sailed ships across the distant ocean, to sweep away the smoke from great cities, and they would wonder why she did these things when it was so much easier just to do nothing at all or to romp and play.

But even playing becomes tiresome, especially when nobody will play with you. And now that the busy autumn had come there was no one to play with. Everybody was too busy to play. So it came about that the Merry Little Breezes because they could think of nothing else to do, offered to help Striped Chipmunk, of whom they were very fond. They offered to shake down nuts from the trees that he might more easily fill his secret storehouse. You know Striped Chipmunk is not much of a climber. He can climb if he has to, but he never feels at home in the trees and never likes to get far above the ground. So for his winter stores he depends on what he can find on the ground, and let me tell you there are no brighter eyes than those of Striped Chipmunk when it comes to finding nuts and seeds hidden under brown leaves.

But there are others quite as eager as Striped Chipmunk to find nuts for secret storehouses, especially his cousins, Happy Jack Squirrel and Chatterer the Red Squirrel, and because they are bigger and stronger and very, very selfish, they often chase Striped Chipmunk away. So is it any wonder that when the Merry Little Breezes offered to shake down the brown nuts from him, Striped Chipmunk chased his tail for pure happiness?

Happy Jack and Chatterer were still quarreling and their voices sounded harsh and angry as the Merry Little Breezes danced along ahead of Striped Chipmunk to a tree some distance from where Happy Jack and Chatterer were calling each other names and worse than wasting the golden minutes of that beautiful day. Striped Chipmunk looked up and his eyes sparkled. The night before Jack Frost had opened the prickly burrs

Worry and Trouble

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

I'VE seen a lot whose luck was bad, And heard about the loss they had, And others in the neighborhood Who hadn't yet, but thought they would.

The losers didn't seem so sad— That's what I never understood: The ones who hadn't lost a thing Did mostly all the worrying.

The losers used to laugh and say, "Well, that is over anyway. Beyond a question or a doubt, And nothing more to fret about." The ones who worried all the day, The ones who looked all petered out, Were those who ran ahead and met Bad luck that hadn't happened yet.

It seems that way with all our woe: The ones who trouble really know Don't worry much; but those who fear That things might maybe happen here

(Although they may not happen so) The worried seem, the sad appear— Though trouble is a thing you see, And worry only what may be.

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nuts were being shaken down and in his heart was a song of joy. And there was a like joy in the hearts of the Merry Little Breezes, for they had discovered the joy of something to do, of work. Never had a day passed so quickly. They had helped another and in so doing had won for themselves a great happiness.

"We'll come again, tomorrow!" they cried, as they saw Old Mother West Wind coming across the Green Meadows with her big bag in which to take them to their home behind the Purple Hills.

"Thank you!" cried Striped Chipmunk, as he sat down to rest his weary legs.

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BONERS



The principal exports of Sweden are hired girls.

BONERS are actual humorous tidbits found in examination papers, essays, etc., by teachers.

Saint Helena—the summer home of Joan of Arc.

Epidermis was an early worker in evolution.

What is the dog star? Rin-tin-tin.

Anatomy is the study of heavenly bodies.

Name two measures that may be used for the conservation of our forests.

Rulers and yardsticks.

—and Caesar, stabbed with many wounds, felt them not. His chief wound was that of seeing his friend Brutus among the traitors, and so, dying, he gasped out the words "Tee thee Brute."

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KITTY MCKAY

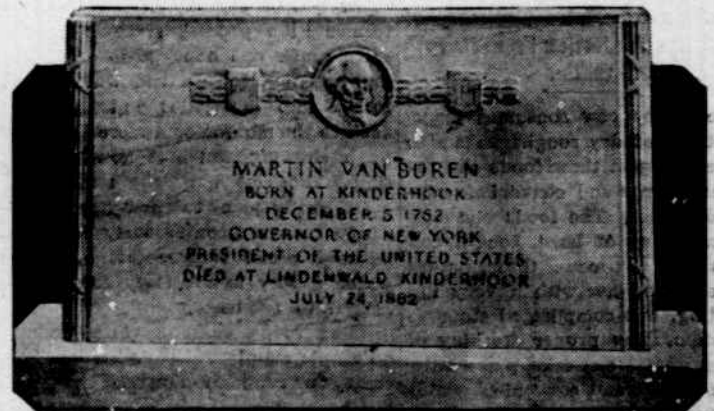
By Nina Wilcox Putnam



The girl-friend says that if moths had to live on her evening frocks they'd die of starvation.

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Monument to "Forgotten President"



AT LAST a monument to Martin Van Buren, the "forgotten President," has been provided in Kinderhook, N. Y., the little village in which he was born 150 years ago. This monument, of Vermont marble, was unveiled recently in front of the Martin Van Buren high school. Van Buren's body lies in an inconspicuous grave in the Kinderhook cemetery.