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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Gain in Industrial Employment Reported—Steel Industry Accused of Price Boosting and Fixing—Japan and U. S. Exchange Good Will Notes—Navy Bill Passes.

SECRETARY OF LABOR FRANCES PERKINS announces a jump of 345,000 in industrial employment and a gain of \$12,000,000 in weekly pay rolls between January 15 and February 15.



Secretary Perkins

"Factory employment increased 6.1 per cent while pay rolls rose 12.6 per cent," Secretary Perkins said in summing up the developments. She added that since March of last year 2,400,000 workers have returned to industrial jobs and \$67,000,000 added to the weekly pay rolls.

Secretary Perkins pointed out that her survey of industrial employment covers only a small part of the total business field.

"The manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries covered," she explained, "normally employ only 20,000,000 of the 49,000,000 gainful workers of the country and therefore these totals do not indicate all changes in employment. To them should be added 10,000 workers reported by the Interstate Commerce Commission to have been taken on during the last month by Class 1 steam railroads, and gains in agricultural employment which normally take place at this time with the beginning of farming activities in the Southern States.

"The increases in employment and pay roll in the automobile industry were the outstanding gains of the month. The agricultural implement industry reported employment gains of 14.9 per cent and machine tools a rise of 15 per cent, continuing the gains which have marked every month since last May and June.

"Industries allied with building construction also showed increased operations."

PRICE fixing and price boosting, tending to discriminate against small enterprises, are current practices in the steel industry under its NRA code, the federal trade commission declares in a report to the senate.

That there has been price fixing as well as increases in prices of steel products during the period covered by the inquiry, the commission declares, are conclusions warranted by ample facts. Under the provisions of the code and the methods of its application prices for any given product at any point of delivery are uniform. This is a direct violation of the order to desist from the Pittsburgh plus practice.

The steel code, according to the trade commission, is devised to lodge control of the industry with the United States Steel Corporation and other large producers, to take business away from little manufacturers, to discriminate against certain fabricators and producing centers and to discriminate in favor of powerful customers like the automobile industry.

At a press conference at the White House the President indicated that he was not satisfied with the way the steel code is operating. There were signs the Executive might reopen the code and call for drastic revisions to protect consumers and independent manufacturers from price fixing and increased costs.

ASSURANCES of cordial regard and pledges of a desire for the settlement of any differences by amicable means were expressed in an exchange of notes between Secretary of State Hull and Koki Hirota, Japanese foreign minister. The exchange of notes was the outcome of interchanges initiated by Japan in furtherance of a foreign policy the general purpose of which is to conciliate the United States. Japan is intent upon persuading the United States to abandon the policy of obstruction of Japanese occupation of Manchuria and to recognize the Japanese dominated state of Manchukuo.

Hirota expressed the firm belief that "no question exists between our two countries that is fundamentally incapable of amicable solution."

Hull, in concurring with that statement, said he would be glad to receive "any suggestion calculated to maintain and to increase that friendliness and cordiality which have consistently marked, since the conclusion of our first treaty, the relations between our two countries."

Japan let it be known unofficially recently that it desires an increase in its naval ratio with the United States and Great Britain under the Washington and London naval treaties and would like to enter preliminary discussions.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, in a letter to the senate and house banking committees, asked congress to set up twelve industrial credit banks which he had been told would safeguard the jobs of 346,000 persons and create work for 378,000 more. Immediately after the President's wishes were known legislation was introduced in both houses giving the federal reserve system authority to create the banks, financing them by selling \$140,000,000 of stock to the treasury.

The plight of the "small or medium size" industrialist was stressed by the President, and he cited results of a survey indicating that such industry was badly in need of \$700,000,000 working capital.

A RAY of hope for unpaid school teachers appeared when a house subcommittee was ordered to draft legislation authorizing direct federal grants to needy school systems throughout the country. The primary purpose of the proposed grants would be to insure the operation of schools for a minimum term each year.

A serious curtailment of educational facilities in many sections of the country has been forced by lack of funds, according to the committee, with consequent result that thousands of children are not receiving the proper amount of instruction. An inability to pay teachers is the most pressing problem.

A large part of the proposed federal grants will be available for the payment of salaries to unpaid teachers.

Under the direct grant measure proposed by the education committee it was understood, the necessary funds would be supplied either by the federal Emergency Relief Administration or the Public Works Administration.

SPEAKING before an assembly of 5,000 cheering chief fascists Premier Mussolini outlined a 60-year program of internal and external expansion which, he predicted, would in the twenty-first century give Italy the "primacy of the world." That century, he said, will be a "black shirt era."



Mussolini

"In this age of plans," Il Duce declared, "I want to lay before you a plan not for five years or ten years but for 60 years carrying on to the twenty-first century, at which time Italy will have the primacy of the world.

"Italy has no future in the West and North. Her future lies to the East and South in Asia and Africa. The vast resources of Africa must be valorized and Africa brought within the civilized circle.

"I do not refer to conquest of territory but to natural expansion. We demand that nations which have already arrived in Africa do not block at every step Italian expansion."

Here, it was said, he was referring particularly to France.

Internally, Mussolini said, immediate objectives are completion of swamp reclamation by 1940, new aqueducts and highways, plans to recreate Italian municipalities, complete rebuilding of 500,000 rural houses and repairs to 930,000 rural houses, a work of 30 years.

"Every rural person will have a clean and healthy house," he asserted. "Only in this way can the rush to the city be combated."

EXPANSION of the navy to treaty limitations is now assured with the passage by congress of the Vinson-Trammell bill. The bill calls for the construction of 102 warships and an increase of 1,184 in the naval airplane strength at a cost estimated at between \$570,000,000 and \$700,000,000 spread over five years.

The bill merely "authorizes" a treaty navy. Appropriations must follow in order to translate the action into ships and planes.

Private builders of ships and planes for the navy are limited in the bill to a 10 per cent profit on the "contract price," excepting on contracts involving \$10,000 or less.

Alternate warships must be built in government navy yards, unless the

President determines that emergency conditions require change of that schedule.

THE man who works for a living will get a break if amendments to the income tax law proposed by the senate finance committee are finally adopted. These amendments would take more taxes from big estates and reduce the tax on smaller incomes.

Chairman Harrison estimated that the net result of the changes proposed would add \$50,000,000 of annual revenue to the bill.

The committee voted unanimously for a proposal to continue the one-tenth of 1 per cent corporation capital stock and 5 per cent excess profits tax levy, which were repealed when repeal put liquor taxes into effect.

These taxes would have expired July 1. Under the new proposal they would become effective again July 1, 1935. Experts estimated the revenue from these taxes at \$95,000,000.

The reduction in income taxes would come in the form of a 10 per cent credit to be allowed on earned income up to \$20,000.

The estate amendment would increase taxes on such property to a maximum of 50 per cent as against the present 45 per cent, the raises ranging from 1 per cent on estates valued between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000 to 5 per cent on those over \$10,000,000.

TRACTS urging the public to donate cash to promote the sport of flying in Germany were circulated in Berlin Sunday. Under the Versailles treaty public funds are not permitted to be used to stimulate aviation, but the leaflet points out that the treaty does not refer to private initiative, and adds:



Premier Goering

"We are unable to construct military planes, but the development of the sport of flying and training German people as flyers is entirely dependent upon ourselves and our readiness to make sacrifices."

The demand for a German air force was also emphasized by Gen. Hermann Wilhelm Goering, premier of Prussia and reichsminister of aviation, in speaking at a flying exhibition at the Essen airport. Goering declared that Germany can enjoy no security, no peace, no equality until she is granted the right to defend herself in the air. This demand cannot be altered, the air minister proclaimed.

"If other countries are permitted the heaviest weapons of attack in the air, Germany at least must be given the right of defense," he said.

A BROAD national program for reducing the nation's supply of milk from 10 to 20 per cent in return for federal cash payments to the individual milk producer was proposed to the dairy industry of the country by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The program was evolved after months of effort by AAA experts.

The plan suggested by the administration would involve some \$165,000,000 at the outset, it was said, with prospects that the cost might rise as high as \$300,000,000. It would be financed by a processing tax of a cent per pound on butter fat, gradually increasing as the program advanced, to a peak of 5 cents per pound.

A NOTHER step forward in developing trade between the United States and Austria was taken with the recent decision of the Austro-American commercial interests in Vienna to found an American Chamber of Commerce in Vienna. Later a cognate institution is also to be established in Washington.

The decision to open up a chamber of commerce here is the result of lengthy study by a committee appointed some time ago "for founding a special organization to develop trade and tourist traffic between Austria and America."

The organization of the American Chamber of Commerce has the backing of President Ernst Streerwitz of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, American Consul General E. L. Harris, and Commercial Attache J. H. Hughes.

General inquiry has indicated that the United States can get a bigger share of the Austrian market through this way of making an intensive study of detailed openings for exports than through any new general trade agreements.

THE city of Hakodate, most important port in northern Japan, was reduced to a smoldering shambles as the result of a devastating fire. One thousand persons are dead and three thousand are injured. The fire followed in the wake of a driving equinoctial windstorm which tore through northern and western Japan. A total of 150,000 of the city's 210,000 inhabitants are homeless. Thirty-seven thousand of the 48,000 houses were burned to the ground.

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BLOSSOMS at Easter Time

WHEN an old Dutch resident declares, of an April morning, that "the Paas lilies by the stoop are out," he is not referring to the American pasque flower or to Easter lilies, but to the beloved, hardy, common daffodil, *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*, called also the Lent lily. That they are not lilies, but, like all narcissi, members of the amaryllis family, did not concern our gardeners, says a writer in the New York Herald Tribune, who knew but a score or so species of a flower that in at least three centuries of cultivation has multiplied with such beautiful confusion that even botanists do not agree about it, while simple visitors to the flower show are driven to adopt the plan of calling daffodils, narcissi and jonquills all "narcissus," which is right and safe if not specific.

Modern methods of cold storage have made the best-known Paschal flower, once truly the Bermuda Easter lily, an all-year adornment. The American pasque flower is a wild anemone which keeps to the northern central states and is not familiar here. The pasque flower of Europe is also an anemone, and it is possible that the poppy-flowered anemone of Mediterranean meadows—red, blue and purple like those local florists are selling today—was the gorgeous bloom to which Christ pointed when he admired "the lilies of the field." In Mexico the poinsettia is often called *flor de Pascua*. The "Easter cactus" (*Schum-*



The Modern Easter Lily.

berga) belongs to homy old kitchen windows. But the flower most appropriate of all to Easter is too rarely seen since grandma's conservatory waned—the cerulean passion flower. In itself and in its story it is exquisite, not to be forgotten at the season of earth's resurrection and of the triumphant festival of the church. The first Spanish explorers, beholding it as it trailed from branches in South American forests, were struck with wonder, finding in its strange form the land's own glorification of their task of conversion.

Legend gathered quickly about Pasiflora. A drawing of it, brought from Mexico, created a sensation at Rome in 1610. It was proclaimed to enfold "all the mysteries of the Passion." The ten colored parts of the floral envelope, says Bailey, to an ardent fancy represented the ten apostles present at the Crucifixion. The inner fingers became the Crown of Thorns, the five stamens the Five Wounds, or else the hammers that drove in the Three Nails (in that case represented by the three styles). The vine's coiling tendrils were the cords or scourges, while the leaves with their "fingers," might have been the hands of Christ's tormentors. That this natural manifestation of Christian belief should have been hidden in the New World's untrodden jungles astounded Europe. And not long ago even Dutch Reformed households would as soon have tucked Pasiflora as passion vines at Easter.

Easter Is Kissing Time

EASTER time is kissing time in many parts of England and Ireland, while "heaving" is an additional custom practiced in the north of England. On Easter Monday, the women gently life men from the ground three times and then demand a kiss. On Easter Tuesday, the rite is reversed, and the men do the "heaving" and demand the kiss. At Hungerford, in Berkshire, a man is entitled to claim a kiss from every pretty girl he meets between noon and 6 p. m. He may not always get it.

Easter Holiday

Easter Monday is not a public legal holiday in any of our states, though nine states have made Good Friday a public holiday. In most countries of Europe, British, French and Dutch colonies, etc., the Monday following Easter is a public holiday.

The Story of Eastertide in Music



FIXING OF EASTER Presented a VEXING PROBLEM

THAT Easter Sunday is what is known in ecclesiastical circles as a "movable feast," falling now upon one calendar date and again upon another, yet always at present upon a Sunday, is a fact casually accepted without doubt or inquiry practically the world over. Something of mystery, however, attaches to this chronological paradox that now and then perplexes the curious and the inquisitorial, declares a writer in the Kansas City Star.

The time of the Crucifixion is fixed as coincident with the Jewish Passover, or paschal feast, in the Jewish calendar month "Nisan," the month of the vernal equinox. The first obscurity in regard to the day arose from the Christian Gospels themselves. The Synoptic Gospels seemed to favor the day as the fifteenth of Nisan, that of St. John, the fourteenth. This established, by the preponderance of evidence, that the Crucifixion occurred on Friday, the day before the Jewish Sabbath. According to Matthew, the resurrection occurred "in the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week." Mark placed it as "very early in the morning, the first day of the week, at the rising of the sun." Luke also fixed the event on "the first day of the week, very early in the morning." Thus it seemed to be definitely established that Christ arose from the dead on Sunday morning, the first day of the Jewish week.

Ecclesiastical history preserves three distinct phases relating to the subsequent commemorative day which came to be known as Easter. Although the observance of Easter was at a

very early period the practice of the Christian church, a serious difference as to the day for its observance soon arose between the Christians of Jewish and those of Gentile descent. With the Jewish Christians, who associated the death of Christ with the sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb at the Passover, which ended "on the fourteenth day of the moon at evening," the Easter festival followed the paschal tradition, no matter what day of the lunar month it chanced to fall upon. The Gentile Christians, on the other hand, following the Synoptic Gospels, identified the first day of the week, Sunday, as the day of Resurrection, and kept the preceding Friday as the anniversary of the Crucifixion. This was the phase of the controversy that characterized the first centuries of Christianity.

The second stage in the Easter controversy centers around the Council of Nice, A. D. 325, where so many doctrinal points were given authentic sanction. This council was summoned by Emperor Constantine. The decision of the council was that Easter was to be kept on Sunday throughout the Christian world. It was at this point that astronomical science entered into the controversy. The correct date of the Easter festival was to be calculated at Alexandria, the then home of astronomical science, and the Roman pontiff was to communicate the date to the churches. This arrangement fixed the date of Easter Sunday as the Sunday "following the fourteenth day of the paschal moon," and defined the paschal moon as "the moon whose fourteenth day followed the spring equinox." But this ruling did not settle all difficulties. The third phase of the controversy arose from the divergent calendars and cycles in vogue in the Eastern and Western church centers. St. Augustine tells us that in the year 387 the churches of Gaul kept Easter on March 21, those of Italy on April 18, while the Egyptian Christians celebrated April 25 as Easter day. The British and Irish churches for a long time adhered to



Easter Time

'Tis Easter time!
I sing again
Of love's redeeming grace
That opened wide the heavenly gates
To make for me a place;
And may I ever faithful be
Until I see His face.
'Tis Easter time!

I pray again
To know His blessed will,
And in my heart I hear again
His voice say, "Peace, be still";
For all the emptiness of life
He comes from heav'n to fill.
'Tis Easter time!

I live again—
The stone is rolled away
From every tomb of doubt and grief—
My night is turned to day;
And in my heart Christ reigns as king
This resurrection day!

an ancient system of computation, though they observed Sunday as the Easter day.

With the adoption of the Metonic cycle as a guide, the formula for fixing the Easter date was determined as "the first Sunday which occurs after the first full moon, or, more accurately, after the first fourteenth day of the moon, following the 21st of March, which is the vernal equinox." As a result, the earliest possible date of Easter is March 22, the latest April 25.

EASTER RABBITS AND EGGS HAD PAGAN ORIGIN

EASTER, commemorating to Christian believers the resurrection of the Savior of Mankind, is almost universally observed as a time for joy and feasting. On Easter Sunday morning thousands of boys and girls will return home from Sunday school and church to hunt for Easter rabbits and eggs.

The origin of egg-rolling which most youngsters enjoy so much, says Pathfinder Magazine, is supposed to have begun centuries ago from the practice of farmers rolling eggs over their land to be sure of abundant yields at harvest time. This was because the egg was the pagan emblem of the germinating of life of early spring. The children are told that the rabbits lay the eggs, and for that reason the latter are nearly always hidden away in nests or in flower beds in the yard and garden. The rabbit is another pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility. Modern people have lost

knowledge of what these symbols mean, yet they have continued these old pagan customs, perhaps by force of habit, and certainly for amusement of the youngsters at Easter time.

As to the coloring of Easter eggs a religious encyclopedia says: "Because the use of eggs was forbidden during Lent, they were brought to the table on Easter day colored red to symbolize the Easter joy. This custom is found not only in the Latin, but also in the Oriental churches. Christians are supposed to have adopted the egg-rolling custom to symbolize the resurrection and the eggs were colored red in allusion to the blood of redemption. Yet, other colors were later introduced and now they have no special significance except to make variety.

Observance of Lent

THE observance of Lent began within 150 years after Christ's time, but there was no specified number of days of fasting. It was extended to about 40 days by the Fourth century and in the Eighth or Ninth century it was fixed to commence with Ash Wednesday and end with Easter Sunday. Forty days are thus observed, since fasting is not observed on the intervening Sundays.



A Duet With Bunny Orchestra.

Easter Monday is always a gala day for the kiddies. If they have any unbroken eggs left, especially is this so for those youngsters in Washington. On that day thousands of them go to the White House and Capitol lawns to roll their vari-colored eggs. The President and First Lady watch them and cast sympathetic eyes upon those who, unfortunately, sometimes break their prettiest eggs.