

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## News Review of Current Events the World Over

### Administration's Billion Dollar Housing Bill Introduced—Epidemic of Sit-Down Strikes—Townsend Convicted of Contempt of House.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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SENATOR ROBERT F. WAGNER of New York and Representative Henry B. Steagall of Alabama introduced simultaneously in the senate and house the administration bill setting up a program for the construction of homes for "families of low income." Under the measure the government may lend to state or local housing authorities \$1,000,000,000, from July 1, 1937, to July 1, 1941, the money for this purpose to be raised by bond issues and the loans to be supervised by a new department, the United States Housing authority. To supplement the loans congress is asked to appropriate \$50,000,000 to be paid in outright grants. The loans are to bear interest at not less than the going federal rate and are to be payable over such a period, not to exceed 60 years, as the authority may determine.

Competition with private industry is guarded against, according to the authors, "by insuring that housing projects shall be at all times available only to families who are in the low income groups."

The four year program calls for the construction of 375,000 family dwelling units at an average cost of \$4,000 a unit. Wagner and Steagall insisted that the bill called for "decentralization."

"All the direction, planning, and management in connection with publicly assisted housing projects are to be vested in local authorities, springing from the initiative of the people in the communities concerned," they stated. "The federal government will merely extend its financial aid through the medium of these agencies. The only exception to the strictly decentralized administration is that the federal government may set up a few demonstration projects in order that local areas without adequate instrumentalities of their own may benefit by an experience in low rent housing."

HAVING virtually countenanced the sit-down strike in the case of the General Motors controversy, the administration found itself embarrassed by that favorite maneuver of John Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization.

Out in Monica, Calif., about 200 employees of the Douglas Aircraft corporation went on strike and "sat down" in the big plant, completely stopping work on \$24,000,000 worth of airplanes the company is building for the government. The men defied a trespass warning and an order to evacuate the plant sent them by the police, and Mr. Douglas refused to negotiate with the union until the strikers got out of the buildings. The situation was complicated by a quarrel over worker representation between the Automobile Workers' union, a C. I. O. group, and the Machinists' union, allied with the A. F. of L.

Finally the strikers were indicted for conspiring to violate two old California laws against forcible entry and trespassing, and when 300 armed deputies appeared at the plant, they surrendered and were taken to Los Angeles for arraignment.

Another big government job was halted for a time by a sit-down strike of employees of the Electric Boat company at Groton, Conn., which is building submarines for the navy. There, however, the local and state police soon evicted the trespassers and arrested them, and the rest of the employees, a large majority, resumed work.

Speaking "not as an officer of the administration," Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper said that any sit-down strike "that undertakes to take over private property is a very serious and fundamental thing and in my opinion will not be long endured by the courts." There was almost an epidemic of strikes throughout the country, many of them of the sit-down variety. Some were settled in short order but others are still on.

OPEN warfare by the government on private power interests will be started soon if the recommendations of President Roosevelt to congressional leaders are acted upon favorably. In letters to Vice President Garner and Speaker Bankhead, the President

urged that prompt action be taken to provide for the sale of electric power from the \$51,000,000 Bonneville project on the Columbia river in Oregon; and he intimated this might be taken as the forerunner of a national power policy. The recommendations were in accord with a report from the committee on national power policy and also with the position Mr. Roosevelt took in the controversy with Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, TVA chairman, who favored co-operation with existing power companies and consideration for their investment.

Here is what the President proposed:

1.—That not less than 50 per cent of the power generated at Bonneville be reserved for sale to public authorities, such as states, districts, counties, municipalities and other sub-divisions and to co-operative associations of citizens.

2.—That the government construct its own transmission lines, sub-stations and other facilities for transporting power so as to make the government project independent of existing utility companies.

3.—That the federal government control the re-sale rates to consumers through regulation by the federal power commission.

4.—That the power be sold at rates low enough to promote the widest use of electrical energy, particularly to domestic and rural consumers. These rates, the President insisted, should be fixed with relation to only that part of the total \$51,000,000 Bonneville investment that the government saw fit to charge to power generation.

5.—That the federal agency administering the project be authorized to acquire by eminent domain if need be, land, franchises, existing transmission lines.

DR. FRANCIS E. TOWNSEND, the elderly Californian who devised the old age pension plan bearing his name, was found guilty of contempt of the house of representatives because he refused to testify before a house committee that was investigating his scheme last spring and "took a walk" out of the committee room. The verdict, rendered by a jury in the District of Columbia court, made the doctor liable to a sentence of one to twelve years in jail or a fine of from \$100 to \$1,000, or both. Judge Peyton Gordon deferred sentence until he could pass on a motion for a new trial.

Townsend seemed rather to welcome the verdict, saying he had expected it. "Lord bless you, I'll be all the more active," he said when asked what effect a conviction would have on his movement. "I think it will be the general opinion that I have been the victim of an injustice. Our organization will be spurred to greater efforts."

FOLLOWING the example set by the five operating railway brotherhoods—engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen and switchmen—the sixteen non-operating brotherhoods, with a membership of 800,000, have voted to demand wage increases averaging 30 cents an hour. This action was taken at a meeting in Chicago of the general chairmen of the brotherhoods. Besides the pay increase, the men ask the guarantee of full time employment for all regularly assigned workers and two-thirds time for "standby" employees.

The non-operating brotherhoods embrace the clerks, telegraphers, carmen, shop laborers, machinists, blacksmiths, dispatchers, boiler-makers, drop forgers, sheet metal workers, electrical workers, freight handlers, express and station employees, maintenance of way men, signal men and sleeping-car conductors.

PLANS for the complete blockade of Spain by the other European powers, in order to starve out the civil war, met with difficulties owing to the bringing up of points involving the national honor of France and Russia. The French made certain objections to the land patrol and the Russians to the sea patrol.

IN ORDER to curb "unwarranted speculation" by members, all securities exchanges are asked to adopt certain regulations suggested by the securities and exchange commission. The proposed rules would put exchange members on the same trading basis as the general public. They would have to put up the 55 per cent margin required of other securities purchasers, and would be required to do this by 5 p. m. of the day of purchases.

In announcing the commission's step, Chairman James M. Landis told reporters:

"This procedure is in accordance with a plan of the commission to give the exchanges the opportunity to regulate the trading activities of their own members. This course, which has been adopted by the commission on previous occasions, will allow greater flexibility in the administration of the rules and will permit minor adaptations to the various exigencies of individual exchanges. While the responsibility for the enforcement of these rules will thus lie with the exchanges, the commission will observe both their enforcement and their effectiveness."

CHAIRMAN HENRY F. ASHURST of Arizona gathered together the members of his judiciary committee and began formal consideration of President Roosevelt's proposition for federal judiciary reform, including the packing of the Supreme court. It was understood the committee would arrange for public hearings at which opponents and proponents of the plan would be privileged to speak their minds. Not long before, Mr. Ashurst and several other senators were called to the White House to discuss the strategy of the fight the administration faces. The Arizona senator and Majority Leader Joe Robinson of Arkansas, who was among the conferees, only recently were vociferous in declaring a constitutional amendment was the only proper way to accomplish the President's purpose. But now they are obediently supporting the administration measure.

Senators Frazier of North Dakota, Bone of Washington and Nye of North Dakota also were summoned to the White House, but what they heard there did not change their stand against the President's plan. Mr. Nye, indeed, soon after delivered a radio address against it.

At this writing 42 senators have declared against the bill; 32 are on record for it, and the rest have not committed themselves. The administration leaders expected to pick up at least 12 from the non-committal group, and claimed more.

JOHN G. WINANT, who as chairman of the social security board had a lot of trouble with certain senators over patronage and whose reappointment to membership on the board had not been confirmed by the senate, sent his resignation to the President. Mr. Roosevelt said Mr. Winant was retiring to attend to pressing private business and would be back in the federal service before very long. The former governor of New Hampshire has been considered a logical candidate for the post of secretary of social welfare if that department is created by congress.

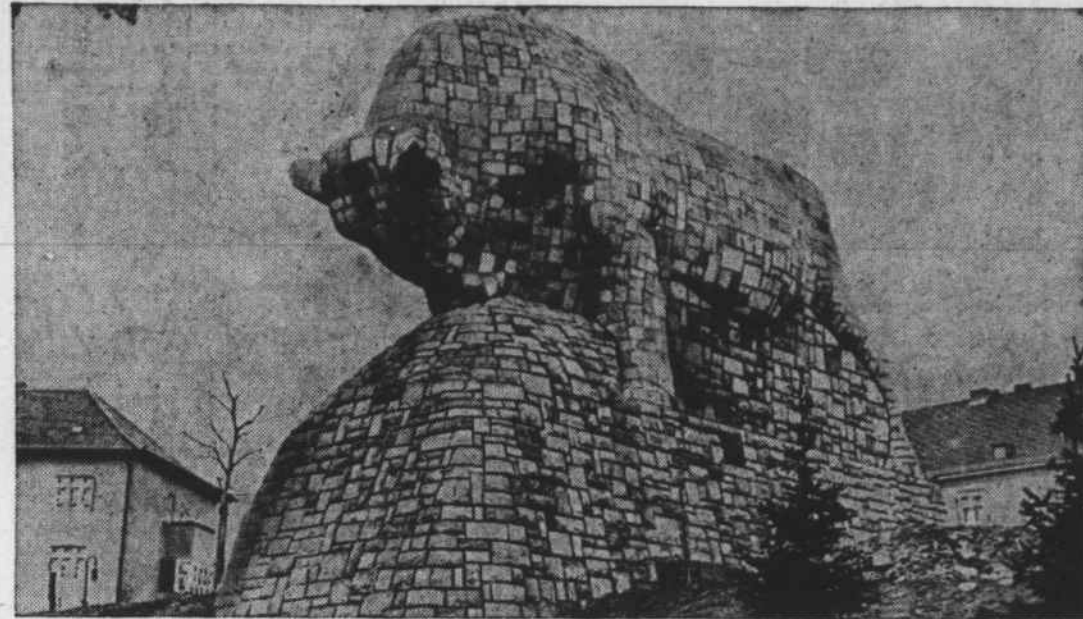
Succeeding Mr. Winant as chairman is Arthur J. Altmeyer, already a member of the board. To fill the vacancy in the membership of the President nominated Murray W. Latimer of New York.

OFFERING to make peace with the Chinese communists against whom it has waged war for ten years, the National government at Nanking announced the terms on which those reds would be allowed participation in national affairs. The Kuomintang's demands are: Abolition of the communist army and its incorporation in the National government forces; dissolution of the Chinese communist state and its unification with the central government; cessation of red propaganda; and stoppage of the class struggle which divides society into antagonistic classes and invites mutual destruction.

That the Nanking government is steadily growing stronger is made evident in the more conciliatory attitude adopted lately by Japan. A spokesman for Hayashi's new cabinet in Tokyo indicated Japan was willing to abate its demands for simultaneous settlement of all pending Sino-Japanese incidents and negotiate separate settlements for each.

Mitzie Greene, varsity baseball player with hair on his chest and freckles on his hands, was elected beauty Queen of Miami university at Oxford, Ohio, by students who turned down twenty-five girl candidates. Green promptly announced his "abdication" and declared his picture would go into the college yearbook section reserved for the beautiful girls of the campus over his "dead body."

## Strange "Charging Bull" Monument in Berlin



This colossal figure of a charging bull rests in a square near the Tempelhof airport, Berlin, Germany. It is built of hundreds of foundation stones taken from demolished houses, when they had been rejected by house wreckers.

## Bedtime Story for Children

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

### BILLY MINK MAKES A DISCOVERY

WHEN Billy Mink slipped through the hole under the floor of the shed at the back of the farmer's house, his one thought was to find a comfortable place for a nap. He found it without any trouble. You know Billy is not fussy and he can curl up and sleep almost anywhere. He had stuffed himself so with that fish he had found just outside of the hole that he felt too lazy to explore. So he picked out the first comfortable looking place he came to and there curled up for a nap.

When Billy awoke he couldn't first remember where he was. Then he recalled the fish and how he had slipped in under the shed floor. "Now I am here, I may as well find out all about this place," thought Billy and got to his feet. He yawned and stretched and then began to run around underneath the floor of the shed, using his nose as he always does. In no time at all a familiar scent tickled his nose. "Ah, ha!" exclaimed Billy Mink. "So this is where those rats came when they left the big barn! I'm not hungry, but I certainly would enjoy a good hunt. I haven't hunted anything bigger than a mouse for ever so long."

Away Billy raced with his nose to the ground, following the scent of a rat. It didn't take him long to find a nest under the shed floor. But there was no one in that nest. The rat smell was very strong, and Billy knew that rats had been there only a short time before. The fact is, the rats who owned that nest had discovered Billy Mink and had promptly moved into the house. Billy eagerly followed the trail. It led him to the hole which led in between the walls of the house. Without hesitating a second, Billy popped through, following that

scent. It was a queer place. He had never been in such a place before. But Billy knew that where a rat could go he could go, and so he followed, climbing up between the walls of the house until at last he reached the attic.

He could hear the scampering of many feet, and he could hear the squeaks of fright, so he knew that the rats knew he was there. Once in the attic Billy found the rat scent everywhere. It was useless to try to follow with his nose because the rats had crossed and recrossed each other's paths so often that the trail was all mixed up.

But if Billy couldn't trust to his nose he could trust to his ears. The sound of scampering feet and the frightened squeaks told him where the rats were. His eyes blazed with the eager light of the hunter, and without even a glance at all the

## First Aid to the Ailing House

By Roger B. Whitman

### HOUSES WITHOUT CELLARS

FOR economy in construction, it is becoming the custom to build small houses without cellars. One method is to dig trenches for the foundation walls and their footings, and to fill the space between with a concrete slab. For small houses that are light in weight, foundations are not necessary. The slab is some feet larger than the house all around, with the house walls resting on it. With this construction, the slab should have steel reinforcement. With proper methods either plan is satisfactory, and reduces the cost of the house by about 15 per cent—that being the usual relation of the cost of a finished cellar to that of the house. The concrete slab should be waterproof, and should be insulated to prevent the chilling of the finished floor. With foundation walls, the concrete slab should be so firmly bonded to them that cracks cannot develop. One excellent method of bonding is to set reinforcing strips into the walls at the proper level, so that when the concrete slab is poured, it will be rigidly connected to the walls.

The earth should be excavated for eight inches or more, and replaced with cinders, tightly packed and leveled. This will provide a good degree of insulation. For waterproofing, the cinders should be covered with heavy waterproof felt. Adjoining sheets should be overlapped by three inches, and the ends and edges should be carried up the inside of the foundation wall to above the level of the finished floor. The concrete is poured on top. Plenty of time should be allowed for the thorough drying of the concrete before the further finishing of the floor.

Even with this waterproofing of the floor, it will be unsafe to lay a wood floor in direct contact with it, because of possible rotting. When the concrete has dried out, it should be painted with a thick layer of liquid asphalt. While this is still soft, wood flooring is laid on it, and will become firmly bound to the con-



"Just about this time each year," says Reno Ritzel, "the June brides find themselves poor enough to be happy or rich enough to get a divorce."

queer things in that attic, things such as he had never seen before, Billy kept on after those rats.

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## PHRASES

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

HOW strange the language we repeat,  
Passed on as we receive it,  
She said she turned into a street;  
I hardly could believe it.  
When someone says he took a train  
I wonder how he hid it.  
You'd think the railroad would complain,  
Arrest him if he did it.

He phoned he'd give the girl a ring;  
He surely didn't mean it.  
He never sent or brought a thing,  
At least she hasn't seen it.  
"I'll make myself a piece of toast,"  
She said, and never knew it  
Was really something one could boast,  
So very few can do it.

"Just push me over Fido's tin,  
I'll put some food inside it."  
But how astonished she'd have been  
If anyone had tried it  
How strange the phrases we employ  
At divers times and places—  
Yes, even tell a girl and boy  
To go wash off their faces.

© Douglas Malloch.—WNU Service.

## Lace for Daytime



A sure figure-flatterer is this tailored jacket dress of brocade lace in a large four petal effect with nubby dots spread throughout the design. The dress is plain, with short sleeves, buttoning at the neck with large ball buttons in contrasting color to match the patent leather belt. It has a straight loose jacket with ample pockets and long plain sleeves. It is one of the stylish washables.

### Fans

Fans made of peacocks' feathers were used in China in 3000 B. C., and there is one in the Cairo museum 4,000 years old. The invention was brought from China to Europe by Portuguese traders in the Seventeenth century, and Paris was long the centre of fan-making. In 1685 King Louis XIV expelled all his Protestant subjects and some of them brought the art over to England. The Fanmakers' company of London dates from 1709.

kind which merely momentarily disturbs one's mind and is quickly put to rout. Or it may require long and sound reason before its insistent and devastating influence can be dispelled. Or it may override reason and will altogether.

Ungoverned jealousy is most likely to be indicated by the thumb in which the first, or nail, joint bends easily under pressure toward the wrist, and where the nail tip is broad, untapered and heavily fleshed to the point of being "clubbed."

The first joint of such a thumb is often shorter than the middle joint, although both may be of even lengths, in which case both sections give the impression of being shorter than normal. Or, again, the middle joint may be abnormally slender, index of too rapid deductions made from faulty facts. The third, or palm, joint will always be found prodigiously over-fleshed, pillowed and without symmetry.

The man or woman with jealousy thus indicated, you may be sure, will find the paths of his or her affections often blasted by unhappiness, perhaps by tragedy.

## THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR HAND

By Leicester K. Davis  
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### The Jealous Thumb



JEALOUSY has well been termed a "green-eyed monster." It is a temperamental defect which, when permitted to prey upon the imaginations of those whose love natures are strongly developed, is sure to cause untold yet needless unhappiness. You will find its indications present in many of the hands you analyze.

The Thumb of Jealousy.  
Jealousy expresses itself in varied forms. It may be of the seating