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News Review of Current Events

'REFORM' BILL PASSED

Measure Giving President Vast Powers Squeezes Through Senate . . . Mussolini Ready for War



Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, chairman of the senate finance committee, is here seen telling members of the press what his committee had done and proposed to do to the revenue measure so that it would be less objectionable to business and to the country in general. It already had made radical changes in the bill as it was passed by the house.

Edward W. Pickard SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

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Wide Powers for President

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S reorganization bill squeezed through the senate by the close vote of 49 to 42, after a fierce fight. A motion to recommit, which would have virtually killed the measure, was defeated by a vote of 48 to 43.

Opponents of this bill are convinced that it paves the way for a dictatorship in the United States.

Mr. Roosevelt made public a letter to a friend in which he disclaimed any intention to become a dictator under the powers granted him by the bill. He said he was firmly opposed to an American dictatorship and that he has none of the qualifications which would make him a successful dictator.

The special reorganization committee of the house reported a new bill as a substitute for the senate measure but differing from it only slightly. Its speedy passage was predicted by Majority Leader Rayburn.

The bill, as it was passed by the senate, authorizes the President, by executive order, to transfer, regroup, co-ordinate, consolidate, segregate the whole or any part of or abolish any of the 135 bureaus, agencies, and divisions of government.

It abolishes the civil service commission as now constituted, and the general accounting office. It creates a new "department of welfare," and it authorizes six more \$10,000 a year assistants to the President.

Senators Are Angered

COMMENTING to the press on the senate's action on the reorganization bill, the President made the remarkable statement that it proved the senate could not be "purchased by organized telegrams based on direct misrepresentations."

This led to an outburst of indignation in the senate. Hiram Johnson of California started a hot debate with the assertion: "I don't know just what was meant by this remark, but I do know full well the implications which arise from it. Did the President mean that the senate could be purchased only by promises of projects in particular states, or by marshals or other officials in particular localities?"

Senator Wheeler of Montana said that it was a "coincidence" that Senator James P. Pope, Democrat, of Idaho, had voted for the reorganization bill about the same time that he had been able to get for his state an appropriation of close to \$1,000,000 to start a dam project. When Pope and his friends indignantly protested, Wheeler said he was satisfied there was no connection between the two matters.

The citizens who sent between 75,000 and 100,000 telegrams asking senators to vote against the reorganization measure are still to be heard from concerning the President's comment.

Adjournment Prospects

CONGRESS wants to adjourn by the first of May, but leaders foresaw three possible obstacles to this plan—the wage-hour bill, the Hungarian debt settlement proposal and railroad legislation.

Democratic Leader Barkley said he hoped the senate could dispose of the tax revision bill, the \$1,100,000,000 naval expansion program, and the proposed \$1,000,000,000 relief measure in April.

Representative Rayburn, house floor leader, said he thought that chamber could complete its present program by May 1. But other members said that if efforts to revive the wage-hour bill are successful, the picture may change.

Ten Men to Probe TVA

FIVE senators and five representatives will do the investigating of the Tennessee Valley authority, for the resolution for a joint committee inquiry was adopted by the senate without a dissenting vote, and was approved unanimously by the house.

The resolution was introduced by Sen. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, majority leader. It calls for investigation of charges of malfeasance and dishonesty made by the ousted chairman, A. E. Morgan, and includes eight of the twenty-three charges originally made by Senators Bridges and King in their first resolution for a congressional inquiry. It also calls for a "fishing expedition" into the activities of private utility companies and their injunction suits against the TVA.

Sen. H. Styles Bridges, the New Hampshire Republican, in a radio debate declared the administration was trying to obscure the charges of scandal within the TVA by forcing the inquiry to cover the private utility angle. "The administration's strategy has been to cover up TVA dirt by a phoney counter-attack," he said.

Italy Ready for War

BENITO MUSSOLINI put a chip on his shoulder and dared anyone to knock it off. In a speech before the Italian senate which was broadcast to the world, Il Duce said: "Italy's land, sea and air forces are tuned for rapid and implacable war." He warned Europe, and especially France, of his readiness and willingness to fight, and said he subscribed to the theory that "the best defense is offense."

He called the Italian submarine fleet the largest in the world, said the nation's air fleet was one of the best in existence, and asserted that, if necessary, he can put an army of 9,000,000 men in the field.

France was warned also by Nazi Propaganda Minister Goebbels in a sensational speech in Vienna. Proclaiming the might of the new Germany, Goebbels shouted: "Germany is now strong enough to resist any attack from France. There can no longer be any question of a promise from Paris to Berlin."

Tornadoes in Middle West

TORNADOES that swept through Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma killed at least 39 persons and did a vast amount of damage to property. South Pekin in the Illinois river valley was almost destroyed, and many other towns suffered severely. Light and water services were crippled.

Oil Seizures Protested

RELATIONS between the United States and Mexico took a serious turn when Ambassador Daniels delivered to Foreign Minister Eduardo Hay a sharp protest against the action of President Cardenas in expropriating foreign oil properties. He asked just how Mexico proposed to pay for the properties seized. Cardenas thereupon called his congress in special session to consider an internal loan to provide for the indemnity payments.

American withdrawal of support from the silver market, Cardenas' chief source of revenue, threatened to close many silver mines.

Silver Buying Halted

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MORGENTHAU announced that the United States had discontinued the purchase of Mexican silver until further notice. This probably was a direct result of Mexico's expropriation of foreign oil properties, which Secretary of State Hull considers a hard blow to his "good neighbor" policies. Price of silver was cut 1 cent an ounce.

"Czar" for Broadcasters

THE National Association of Broadcasters announced the election of Mark Ethridge of Louisville, Ky., as temporary president, or "czar," of the billion-dollar radio broadcasting industry.

Ethridge, who is managing editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times, accepted the position after stipulating that he would not take any salary. The job, authorized at the N. A. B.'s annual convention, was to have carried a salary of \$25,000 yearly.

Britain's New Spanish Plan

GREAT BRITAIN laid before representatives of Europe's major powers new proposals for obtaining early removal of foreign troops from the Spanish civil war. The plan was submitted to the chairman's subcommittee of the non-intervention committee in its first meeting in nearly two months.

Informed persons said Britain proposed first, a "new formula" for deciding when belligerent rights should be granted the warring factions; second, restoration of control on Spain's frontiers.

Franco in Catalonia

GENERAL FRANCO'S insurgent army blasted its way through the loyalist lines and entered the province of Catalonia, moving far toward Barcelona, the third capital of the government forces. In this rapid advance about 100 towns were captured in a single day and many villages were demolished by bombardment by a fleet of 200 war planes said to have been contributed by Italy and Germany.

Colonel House Dies

DEATH after a long illness ended the notable career of Col. Edward M. House, whose name, during the World War era, was familiar to millions. He passed away in New York at the age of seventy-nine years.

Shunning publicity and personal glory, House devoted himself unflinchingly to what he deemed the best interests of his country and for years his influence, especially in international matters, was great. An early supporter of Woodrow Wilson's political fortune after his election to the presidency and continued to help direct his course immediately before and during the war, making frequent trips to Europe. He was Wilson's personal representative in the Versailles peace conference. Later he and Wilson disagreed and their close association came to an end.

Japan's Regime in China

JAPAN announced officially the inauguration of the "reformed Government of the Republic of China" in Nanking. This puppet state is intended to replace the regime of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and is headed by Liang Hung-Tze as chairman of the new executive yuan, a position equivalent to premier.

The Chinese were still fighting the invaders desperately along the Peiping-Hankow railway and claimed the Japanese were suffering heavy losses.

CONQUERING THE POLES



Man Pushes Closer to Heart of 'Weather's Kitchen,' Seeking Short Cut Route Over Top of the World; Russians Pioneer Arctic

By JOSEPH W. LABINE

In 1909 courageous Robert E. Peary trudged to the North Pole. The world praised his conquest of the Arctic but with the same breath questioned: "What good is it?"

That cynical attitude persisted until last May when a group of intrepid Russian scientists and aviators began the most thorough examination of Arctic wastes yet attempted by men, braving untold hardships to gather data about the weather's "kitchen."

Suddenly the whole world has become aware of the potential value that lies within the Arctic and Antarctic circles. As Russia goes to work, the United States looks with renewed interest to Alaska, her own far north province. In Canada, British Columbia seeks to extend her domain to the North Pole. In Great Britain, scientists are mulling over data gathered by the British Graham land expedition to the Antarctic.

Many reasons justify this sudden interest. The fabled northwest passage which Henry Hudson sought may yet be found in the Arctic sea. Aviation progress has made practical such long sustained flights as the two Moscow-California hops last summer. Moreover, who knows what valuable mineral deposits lie beneath the crust of ice and snow that covers Arctic lands?

Antarctic Land Discovered

In the Antarctic, the recent British expedition discovered that Graham land is not an archipelago of islands as previously reported by Sir Hubert Wilkins, but one great tract of land—a peninsula of the Antarctic continent.

But it is the North pole which commands most interest because of its proximity to North America, Europe and Asia—a potential shortcut across the top of the world.

The Soviet's best scientists are now living in some 60 weather stations along the Arctic coast, helping push back the frontier and open the sea to ships—at least in summer.

Their observations are now supplemented by those of the ice-floe expedition, four scientists who landed near the pole last May and have since drifted slowly southward, to be picked up recently off the coast of Greenland.

Moscow has announced that eventually it will establish a series of

weather observatories and landing fields along the proposed polar airway between Russia and the United States.

America has been slow to appreciate the possibilities of Alaska. Her first concrete step was the removal of farmers from sub-marginal American lands to more fertile Alaskan soil several years ago. But she has done little more.

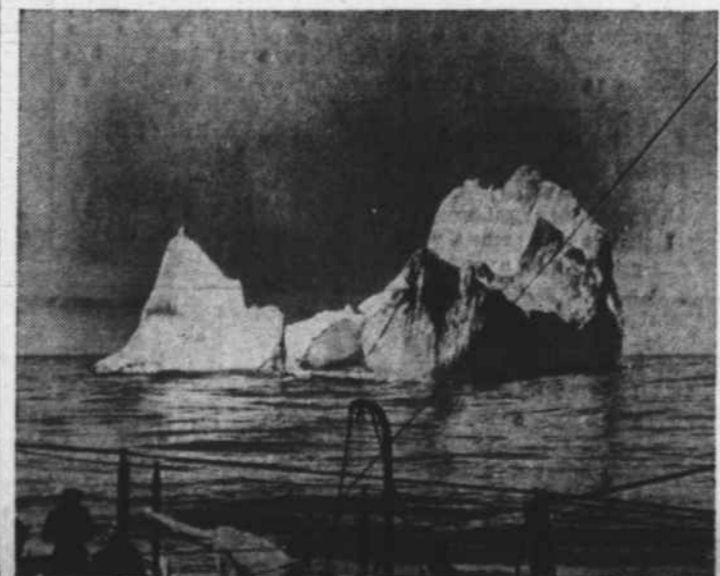
Today, when airways span every continent, there is still no regularly scheduled line between the United States and Alaska, although the Alaskans themselves are more air-minded than their brothers in the states. Last year more than 20,000 residents of the territory made trips by air—almost one-fourth of the entire population! Alaskans realize their territory can be conquered for year-around exploitation only by air.

Meanwhile, to the immediate east, British Columbia is suffering from



ABOVE—Captain Amundsen taking observations with a sextant as his Norwegian flag flies at the point determined upon as the exact South Pole. This remarkable photo was taken December 14, 1911, the date Amundsen reached the pole.

BELOW—Every iceberg that menaces shipping in the northern seas was once part of the mighty Polar ice cap, which has drifted southward with so many exploration parties, including the recent Russian expedition under Commander Papanin.



FRENCHMAN TELLS STRANGE STORY OF WAR EXPERIENCE

Prisoner, Freed by Kaiser to Visit Home in France, Returns to Germany.

Paris.—One of the strange stories of the World War has just come out of the Perpignan district, in the south of France.

It's about Andre-Pierre Cales, a stocky grocer of Belves, who in 1916 obtained leave of absence from a German prison camp, visited his native village in France and then returned to Germany as a captive for the duration of the war.

Incredible as the story may seem, M. Cales has documentary evidence to prove his story. On the wall of his store is the framed permit of the German authorities, signed by the kaiser, permitting him to leave Germany for eight days on condition that he return to the prison camp.

Captured by Germans.

In 1914 Cales was assigned to the one hundred ninth infantry. He fought with his regiment through the first battle of the Marne. But on February 12, 1915, he was wounded at Suippes and was captured when the rest of his company fell back in temporary retreat. He was sent to a military hospital at Spire and later was interned at Wurzburg in Bavaria.

Early next year Private Cales received a letter from his wife, mailed from their home in Belves. She told him his father was dying, that daily his father wondered why he was not at the bedside. She urged him to do everything in his power to persuade the German authorities to permit him to come home, even if it were for only a few days.

Cales tried. It looked hopeless. Then the commander of the prison camp informed him that the kaiser had granted permission. That same night, February 23, 1916, he boarded a train for Switzerland.

Keeps the Faith.

So extraordinary was the situation that the French authorities did not believe him at first. In the end they let him into France, guarded by an officer, but they questioned him so long that he only had three days at home.

When he reached Belves, his wife, in mourning, greeted him at the door. His father had died the week before.

During the three days at home Cales was the wonder of the village. Cales and the bodyguard that followed him wherever he went. Why, he was asked, should he keep the agreement and return to Germany? Cales replied that was the bargain, and three days later he boarded a train for Switzerland, and more than half of his former friends thought there was something wrong with him.

Cales went back to the prison camp. In 1919 he was freed. Once again he took the train to Belves.

He says today that he has not left Belves since—and never intends to.

Brakeman Dies Sticking to Wild Train in Wreck

Copperhill, Tenn.—Few heroes about to defy death will ask whether posterity will remember them. Nor did a forty-two-year-old brakeman on a copper mine railway here.

Clarence Howard was aboard a five car freight train when the cars broke away from the engine. He could have leaped safely to the ground, but stuck with his train to forestall what he knew would be a certain wreck unless he applied the hand brakes. Crawford applied those brakes. But too late. There was a crash. He was wedged between two telescoped cars.

Fellow workers could not pull him out. Crawford told them so. He told them to wait for acetylene torches to burn away the twisted steel that compressed his pain wracked body. When the torches arrived Crawford coolly directed the men cutting through the steel.

At the end of three hours Crawford lost consciousness. For five hours more far into dark, his rescuers worked to free him. They succeeded, but Crawford was dead—a hero.

"Party Driving" Helps in More Ways Than One

Denver.—University students' ingenuity has created a new method of earning money to defray expenses. The latest wrinkle is "party driving."

The "party drivers" guarantee sober driving for students on parties. Denver police have started to arrest several drivers of late whose cars were filled with singing, shouting college students, only to be checked by the explanation: "I'm a party driver."