

Roosevelt Calls Doughton To Capital



Washington.—How important a political issue can be made out of the falling off in exports of American farm products and the increase in imports of staple food supplies is the latest question on which political observers here are focusing their attention. How much of the current situation is due to natural causes or conditions outside of government control and how much to political measures, is the root of the argument.

The facts as Washington gets them are something like this:

The oversupply of surplus wheat which has been depressing the world market for several years, has been practically consumed, resulting in higher prices. The world's normal carryover of surplus wheat is about 300,000,000 bushels. All the reports which the Department of Agriculture regards as reliable indicate that the surplus for the year to come will be just about this normal carryover. Of this the United States crop of 1936, amounting to 600,000 bushels, and the supply of old wheat carried over, 125,000,000 bushels, will leave an American surplus of about 100,000,000 bushels.

What consumption is increasing all over the world and this fact, coupled with the world-wide shortage, will tend to keep prices up. Of course, it is much too early to forecast the Argentine and Australian crops, where it is now mid-winter or early spring.

In the meantime, American wheat imports are up this year over last year. These imports are for special grades of wheat in demand by millers, which are normally grown in the Northwest and of which the crop has been short for the past six years. In the first six months of this year official figures show that 19,805,560 bushels of wheat were imported from abroad, compared with 12,839,047 bushels in the corresponding period of 1935.

CORN AND DROUGHT

Officials Washington is more concerned with the corn crop than with the wheat crop. If the drought continues to the middle of this month, the Department of Agriculture's estimate is that the corn crop will be less than half of the normal 2,500,000,000 bushels, and even with good weather and plenty of rain, the corn crop will be about 800,000,000 bushels short of the normal 2,500,000,000.

So far this year imports of corn have been less than one-third of what they were in the first half of 1935; 5,662,215 bushels against 17,620,195 in the same period last year. There has been a sharp decline in the importation of oats and of butter.

On the other side of the scale, exports of wheat have dropped to practically nothing, though cotton exports have been higher on the average in 1936 than in 1935.

It is this falling off of agricultural exports and the rise in agricultural imports which gives the politicians of both parties concern. The opponents of the Administration assert that exports have fallen because the Government has created an artificial scarcity and an artificial price level, while imports are rising not only because of this scarcity but because of the Administration's reciprocal tariff policies.

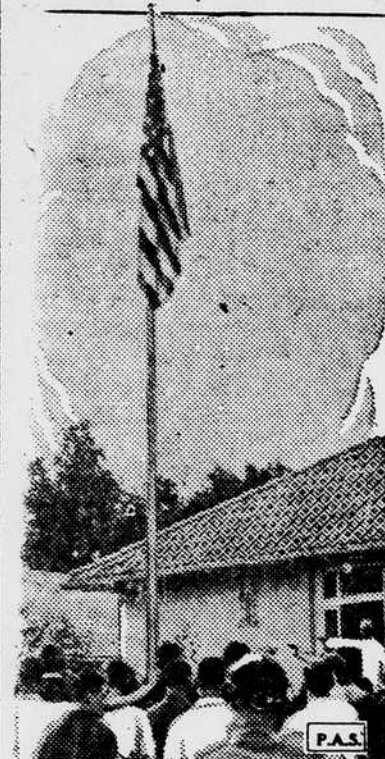
Administration supporters say that so far as tariff influence goes the policy of the previous administrations made it difficult for foreign customers to get dollars with which to buy American products, and that the increase in importation is due to the destruction by drought of crops which the Government had sought to adjust to the situation caused by the loss of foreign markets.

A SELLER'S MARKET

Whatever the cause, it is the (Continued from page One)

Business Failures Now At Low Level

Old Glory at Berlin



BERLIN, Germany.—Here is a picture of the American flag, Old Glory, as she was run to the top of the pole in the American section of Olympic Village which houses Uncle Sam's champion athletes to the world's greatest sport festival.

Front Yard Gets Rain; The Back Yard Stays Dry

Galax, Va.—"Spotty" rainfall has been a feature of the drought in southwest Virginia, but the climax of "spottiness" is believed to have been achieved here a few days ago when at the home of Paul Dalton, in Galax, a good shower fell in the front yard, water running off awnings and wetting the lawn. Mrs. Dalton was elated and went to the rear to see how much water had fallen on her dry garden. It was as dry as ever.

SIAMESE TWIN PANSY EVOLVED BY WOMAN

Andover, Mass.—For many years a grower of flowers, Mrs. John Franklin scaled the heights of success when she displayed a Siamese twin pansy. Two perfectly formed blossoms were growing on the same stem.

Raleigh.—R. Eugene Brown, director of institutions and corrections of the state welfare department, said that more than one-half of the 100 county jails in North Carolina were "inadequate" as to size, safety and cleanliness.

N. C. Labor Seeks Farm Coalition

Winston-Salem.—The North Carolina State Federation of Labor closed its thirtieth annual convention here Wednesday after electing R. R. Lawrence of Winston-Salem president for the seventh consecutive year, and selecting Asheville as the place for the 1937 meeting.

The entire slate of officers, with the exception of chaplain, was nominated and elected without opposition in a speedy session presided over by George L. Googe of Atlanta, Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor.

LAWRENCE PRAISED
The officers were installed by Googe, who praised the work of President Lawrence in "furthering the cause of organized labor and of labor unorganized within the State of North Carolina during the years he has served as president of the State Federation."

Earlier in the day the State Federation made a move toward a farmer-labor coalition to gain for Carolina "along non-partisan lines."

After speakers had pointed out the difficulty of trying to reach labor's objectives through the present political set-up the convention voted in favor of a vigorous program of co-operation between farmers and labor.

Big Decline Is Shown By Index

Grim Reaper of Commercial Ventures Plying His Sickle With Sparing Hand

New York.—A decline in commercial failures to the lowest figures since the post-war boom days of 1920 was recorded as an index of improving business health.

Figures compiled by Dun & Bradstreet for July made the lowest monthly total since September, 1920, and showed a continuation of the rate of decline in the first week of August.

On the basis of an index kept by the agency since the end of 1932, July insolvencies were at the annual rate of 38.2 for each 10,000 firms in business.

It compared with 4.6 in June and 52.8 in July, 1935. In January, 1933, as business was leading for the banking holiday, it was above 170 and a former index computed somewhat differently, soared above 200 at the peak of the depression epidemic of failures.

July failures numbered 639, a figure exceeded on the downside only twice for the month since 1894 despite the growth of population and business in the meanwhile. It compared with 902 in the same month last year and 2,596 in July, 1932, around the peak of the depression liquidation movement.

Chained Sons to Post



DENVER.—His boys, Jimmie, 12, and Wayne, 10, would not mind him or their mother, said Ray Hamblin, 42-year-old Brighton WPA worker, above, and as both he and his wife had to work, he chained them to a post in the basement of their home. . . . The court fined him \$50 and 60 days in jail.

Girl, 17, Admits Killing Mother with Hatchet



NEW YORK.—Gladys McKnight, 17, and her 18-year-old chorister sweetheart, Donald Wightman (above), revolted this populace, hardened to brutal crimes, in the confessed murder of the girl's mother, Donald holding the mother while Gladys battered her down and to death with a hatchet. It was all over a trivial quarrel because Gladys had to get an early supper for herself so she might play tennis with Donald. They say the mother had a knife in her hand.

53 Cents Tax Rate Retained By County

Rowan County will have the same tax rate this year as last—that is, 53 cents per 100 valuation. Retention of the same low rate was made possible by increased collections of delinquent taxes and through economies effected by the Board of Commissioners.

The budget is based on a valuation of approximately \$60,000,000 which includes corporation excess. Last year the valuation was \$58,766,867. Anticipated revenue is \$406,636.85, with \$295,315 from ad valorem taxes and the rest from miscellaneous revenue.

In 1935 the total budget was \$356,493.31. This year it is \$406,636.85. The general fund is \$132,861.25 against \$120,820.50 last year. Debt service \$142,948.74 against \$139,136.25. Last year. County Home is \$13,640 against \$13,455. Current expense of schools is \$16,624 this year and \$15,645 last year. Capital outlay for schools is \$28,324 against \$21,233 last year. Debt service for schools is \$42,607 against \$43,171 last year. Maintenance and fixed charges of schools is \$29,630 against \$23,000 last year.

EDUCATED CHICKENS

Oneonta, N. Y.—Mrs. Ardella Peaslee, of West Laurens, walked into a local hennery and recovered five "educated" hens from her farm. When asked to identify the birds, Mrs. Peaslee called out "Come Susie, come Nuisance, come." and walked from the establishment followed by five Rhode Island Reds and State Police arrested a neighbor accused of the theft.

Sunday School Convention At Liberty Meth. Church Wednesday, August 19th.

The Rowan County Sunday School Convention, for all denominations, will be held in Liberty Methodist Church, miles East of Salisbury, on Wednesday, August 19th, with morning, afternoon and night sessions. The theme this year is A NEW CHURCH FOR THE NEW DAY. There will be addresses, discussion groups, and special music, at the morning and afternoon sessions. These discussion groups will be for everyone and on every division of the Sunday School. There will be an interesting Religious Dramatization put on at night. The night session will be especially in the interest of the young people's work, but adults are invited to attend also. Between the morning and afternoon sessions there will be a fellowship dinner. Everyone is urged to come and bring baskets.

Rev. Shuford Peeler, general secretary of the N. C. Sunday School Association, and Frank J. Watson, also of the State Association, will be present and take active parts. Local pastors and others will participate also. It is hoped that every church will send not less than six delegates. They are urged to send more, if possible. At the close of the night session, a pennant will be given to the Sunday School having the best record of attendance, based on the number of miles traveled.

Further information about the Convention may be secured from Dr. H. H. Newman, Salisbury, the county president, or Mrs. H. C. Agner, Gold Hill, the county secretary.

NEW COTTON PLANT

Wiggins, Miss.—An unusual species of cotton plant with twin bolls to the square, no branches on the stalk and producing an inch-long staple received the attention of agricultural officials here. The new growth was discovered by H. H. Batson.

Solon Hurries To Conference

Theme of Talk With The President Is Unknown; Senator Harrison Is Also Called

Washington, Aug. 12.—With the ways and means committee chairman, reported en route to Washington for a hurriedly called conference with the President, official Washington is speculating on the subjects that will be discussed. Interest was heightened late in the day by arrival in Washington by plane of Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, Senate Finance Committee chairman, who dropped his campaign for nomination for reelection to hurry to Washington at the President's behest for the conference.

The belief prevails that lowering the tariff on at least 12 or 14 important commodities of life, will be the chief theme of the conference. The proposal follows somewhat alarming conditions that prevail in some quarters as to the scarcity of corn, wheat and foods and feed for man and beast, caused by the searing drought which for the past several weeks has gripped the country in a more devastating manner than in 1934. The crop report issued this week did not lend encouragement to the situation and revealed, for instance, that the drought had shriveled the nation's corn crop to the lowest yield in modern history of farming, at 1,439,135,000 bushels, or 45.8 per cent of normal. This crop report was based on August reports from crop reporters. While the report did not indicate any shortage of wheat, it is understood that for September will, and that decided inroads will be made on the 150,000,000 bushel carry-over that exists, unless drastic action is taken to conserve food supplies of the nation. But the fact that the spring wheat crop was only 32.8 per cent of normal while durum wheat, used in milling baker's flour, was only 20.9 per cent of normal crop causes concern.

The situation is causing a steady increase of the cost of living, it was pointed out, with attention called to the fact that even today meat markets are pushing the finest cuts of fancy beef at unusually low prices in populated centers, due to the fact that farmers are dumping their cattle on the markets since they have no feed for them during the remainder of the summer, and most certainly not until the fall round-up.

With this situation facing the administration, the president, it is generally believed, proposes to lower the tariff on certain commodities to keep down the cost of living and especially to cause importations of heavy grains of all kinds for hogs and cattle during the coming fall and winter, so that the supply of livestock will not be depleted. Having worked out a plan to this end with Senator Harrison and Mr. Doughton the Chief Executive, during his coming trip, will be able to carry a message of good cheer to the thousands of people who are struggling for existence on the seared plains of the West, and those on farms of the South, where the drought has been unrelenting.

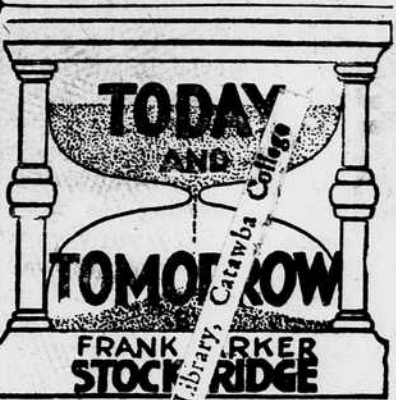
BUYS WIFE FOR \$5 OLD RECORDS SHOW
Jackson, Miss.—According to records recently unearthed here, 1875 was notable, as far as Jackson is concerned, for the sale of one wife for five dollars—\$2 in cash and \$3 in tools.

John Thompson, of Napoleon, Mich., the records relate, took a fancy that year to the wife of William Grover, and offered to buy her. The new couple are said to have lived happily.

LEADERSHIP . . . scarce
The only way the mass of mankind gets out of the old ruts and the habits which handicap it is when some forceful character who has set himself free from the inhibitions which bind most of us to the old ways, points out a new way so persuasively that first a few and then the many are induced to try it.

Such leaders are rare. Not very many of them are born in any generation. When they do arise they change the world.

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HABITS . . . hard to break

Man is a creature of habit. Most of our actions and most of our so-called thinking are what they are because we have acquired the habit of going through a fixed routine and don't have initiative enough to change our habits of work and thinking.

I think this inherent trait of human nature lies at the bottom of most of the failures to change the world overnight. Reformers of all types are prone to overlook the hold which habit has on the human animal. It would not be difficult to make the world a much better place to live in for everybody, if only enough people could be jarred out of their habits of living and made to see that there are better ways of doing things than those to which they are accustomed.

RUTS . . . get deep

Most of the world runs in ruts. We stay in our ruts because it is easier than to try to get out of them, or because our fathers before us traveled in the same ruts. The deeper the rut, the longer people have moved in it, the harder it is to get out of it.

The only really free individuals are those who succeed in getting out of the ruts in which their fellows are moving. Once in the rut, the individual is merely one of the crowd. He is not free to move in any direction except that in which the crowd is moving. He has to follow a pattern or a trail marked out for him by others.

No man is entirely free from some sort of restraints. The worst slaves, however, are the ones who could be free but who prefer to stay in the rut and revile the more enterprising ones who have succeeded in climbing out of it. It is human nature never to shoulder the blame for one's own condition, but to try to find a scapegoat who is responsible for all of one's individual troubles.

STUPIDITY . . . an obstacle

Nobody can watch the world go by for as many years as I have been permitted to do so without coming to the conclusion that the chief obstacle in the way of human progress is not greed or tyranny but stupidity. Show me a man who prides himself on being conservative, and, nine times out of ten, I will show you that this so-called conservatism is merely stupidity. He has been taught, or has taught himself, certain fixed rules which, to his stupid mind, chart the only perfect course of life. He refuses to listen to any suggestion that a new way or a different way of doing things might be better for everybody, including himself.

I do not mean to suggest that the new way or the different way is always the better way. What I am trying to say is that the true conservative, if he is intelligent, will look at any new ideas with an open mind and an impartial eye, instead of dismissing them from all consideration merely because they do not conform to his preconceived ideals.

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