

# Three Extensive Projects Discussed in Washington

## Interest Centers On Flood Control, Reclamation, Soil Conservation

(Special to The Press-Maconian)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Passage of the Supreme Court Retirement Bill will make only a slight change in the status of the Justices. Under the present law any Justice of the Supreme Court may resign at 70 on a pension of full pay, \$20,000 a year, for life.

Justice Holmes, who resigned at 88 and lived for four years longer, is the only one who has taken advantage of this law in recent years—and he refused to take his pension. One reason why others have not done so is that their work on the Bench is so integral a part of their lives that they do not like to give it up and go into enforced idleness so long as they are still able to perform their judicial duties.

Another, though probably a less compelling reason why Supreme Court justices retain their seats when they could resign, is that their pensions would be subject to income tax, which their salaries are not.

### Always a Member

The retirement bill permits any Justice to retire from active service on the Bench at or after 70, but he is still a member of the Court, as a retired officer of the Army, and could be called upon for special duty at any time. His life tenure is not impaired by the bill, nor his salary reduced in any way.

The original purpose of the bill, which has been considered by previous Congresses, was to extend to the Supreme Court the same retirement privilege now enjoyed by judges in the lower Federal courts. The purpose back of the present revival of the plan, however, is to make it easier and more attractive to some of the older Justices to retire now and so create vacancies in the Court which the President

could fill with younger men.

### Flood—Dust—Reclamation

Next to the Supreme Court issue, Washington's interest is centering upon the extensive projects of flood control, desert reclamation and soil conservation, which are taking concrete form.

The reclamation project, interest in which has been stimulated by the recent recurrence of dust storms in Oklahoma, outlines a long-range regional project taking in all or parts of ten states.

The Federal Government, the state governments and local authorities in these ten states would cooperate to put several million acres back into grass and develop methods of protecting settlers on the tillable lands of the region and providing financial assistance to such as might need it.

Relief of sufferers from the Ohio-Mississippi floods comes ahead of projects for the prevention of future floods. Due to the fact that so much of the \$790,000,000 just appropriated for the W. P. A. and other relief agencies will be needed for immediate relief work in those river valleys, Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins has asked Congress for another \$200,000,000, which he will doubtless get.

### "Disaster Corporation" Loans

Congress also passed and the President has approved a bill creating the "Disaster Corporation," authorized to lend up to 20 million dollars to flood sufferers, who cannot obtain sufficient credit from ordinary channels for rebuilding their homes, shops, farms and factories. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is to supply the capital.

The Administration's agricultural proposals, as now shaped up, include five major projects, in the interest of agriculture. One is continuance of the soil conservation subsidy plan, estimated to distribute an annual benefit of 500 million dollars with larger subsidies in times of big crops.

Plans are also about matured on new legislation for stronger voluntary and compulsory production control than was called for in the original AAA.

A third proposal is an enlarged crop insurance plan, to protect farmers against the hazards of weather and insects, with the cost of insurance borne partly by general taxation.

Fourth is an entirely new project for cash and credit advances to individual tenant farmers who want to work their way from tenancy to farm ownership. The fifth is a broad system of price-fixing loans on major crops, coupled with government-financed storage of surplus commodities.

Those are the elements of the completely integrated agricultural program which was worked out and unanimously approved at the conference of 50 farm leaders with the Secretary of Agriculture and other Administration and Congressional leaders held here this month.

The new farm program eliminates one of the major grounds upon which AAA was invalidated by the Supreme Court, which held that the processing tax for the benefit of farmers was an improper use of the government's taxing power. The new plan would impose no special taxes, taking the necessary funds from the general revenue instead of putting the whole burden upon processors of agricultural commodities.

The tenant-farmer project has been mapped on a large scale. There are estimated to be about 3 million farmers, scattered all over the nation, who do not own their land. The plan proposes to advance government funds to the extent of ten million dollars a year to enable tenants to buy approved farms, which would provide for 2,000 or 2,500 farmers annually.

States are to be urged to reform their tenancy laws, which are generally regarded as less fair to the tenant than are the land laws of England.

Under this plan the government would buy millions of acres and resell to farmers who are now tenants such parts of it as are suitable for farming.

Speculation in farm land is to be discouraged or prevented, and land prices, mortgage interest and other credits regulated by law.



NEW YORK . . . Her answers to a questionnaire by John Held, Jr., originator of the word "flapper," won for Dorothy Louise Miller of Columbia University (above), the honor of being titled, the Ideal Co-ed.

### Ford Home Almanac Being Distributed

Brimful of useful facts and information and other material of human interest, the Ford Home Almanac for 1937 goes to the homes of the United States this week, distributed free by dealers of the Ford Motor company.

Readers of the booklet will find that, in addition to the time of sunrise and set, adjusted to each latitude; moon phases, eclipses and the usual other information given in Almanacs, the Ford Home Almanac is replete with interesting reading material dealing with ancient and modern prophecies, some of which shaped the destiny of different countries; sea mysteries that generations of research have not solved and other miscellany.

There are also short articles dealing with the views of Henry Ford on various subjects, as well as an article showing in detail what he has done with the \$13,000,000,000 which the public has paid for Ford cars and trucks since the Ford Motor company began business in 1903. Most interesting are the facts that, of this vast sum, the Ford Motor company retained for itself but 6.4 cents out of every dollar, spending the remainder, totaling nearly \$12,500,000,000 for wages, taxes and materials.

The housewife and mother will find the little book handy because of the reliable information it brings for first aid treatments in many different kinds of emergencies, hints for the kitchen and care of the garden and a well planned garden chart. The motorist planning a trip to any part of the United States will find in the Almanac a chart giving accurate mileages between important cities.

### Lord's Acre Movement Spreading Rapidly

A movement rapidly spreading among rural churches is that of having members set aside some special plot of ground or give a definite part of the proceeds from some special project to the church. A comment by Dr. John W. Holland in The Progressive Farmer is as follows:—

"This Lord's Acre movement emphasizes the farmer's partnership with God. It plans something definite for each one to do. It works in the open where the results may be seen and measured. It will take some of the indefiniteness out of what we call 'Christian stewardship.' Thousands of people will find their spiritual life quickened into newness by the sight of things 'growing solely for God.' Thousands of boys and girls will develop characters which will always feel the influence of thus working for and with God. One may not have so much as an acre to spare, but in that case a smaller plot or some other activity will provide something for God's work. The woman who gives all Sunday eggs to the church is an example."

### Dangerous Fun

Afghanistan soldiers play a game called "kukushka." They dodge around a blind-folded man, who fires a loaded gun in their direction whenever they shout "cuckoo" at him.

### Colored Baptists Building Church at Pine Grove

The pastor and members of Pine Grove Baptist church, colored, are building a new church and are asking their white friends to assist them in raising the money to complete the building.

The pastor, W. M. Herbert, states that they have almost finished the cement block walls and that they are salvaging all useful parts of the old building.

This church has planned a general rally for next Sunday, Feb. 28, and a large crowd of colored people is expected to attend.

### War On Opium

China is making a war on the opium evil. Plans are laid to eradicate this evil by 1940. All opium growers will be registered up to then and hundreds of clinics for the cure of addicts are planned. Once cured an addict will be shot if found using the drugs again.

Lake asphalt is found in large quantities in the West Indies and Venezuela.

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