

# SEEN-HEARD

around the  
National Capital

by CARTER FIELD

Washington.—With nature showing in its help to extinguish the cotton surplus, as she has already on hogs, cattle and to a lesser extent wheat, probabilities for trouble in the future for cotton growers in this country are not diminished, but increased.

The point is that the dust storms in the big cotton producing areas of Texas and Oklahoma—more than half of the cotton raised in the United States is grown west of the Mississippi, despite the prevailing opinion to the contrary—have already boosted the price of cotton. Pressure on AAA is expected to continue to rise around 12 cents, despite the desire to drop them gradually. All of which means that the price of cotton will be maintained at this high level next year.

So far, so good, but unfortunately it is impossible for the United States to keep such a situation a secret. If this country could only do what Russia did a few years back with wheat, it could make a killing on cotton—perhaps—next year.

The Russians, it may be recalled, circulated stories that their wheat crop had failed, back in the days of Secretary of Agriculture Hyde and the farm board. The farm board began buying wheat, and the Russians began selling. Hyde thought they were selling short, and actually denounced them in public speeches for such a nefarious practice. But the Russians delivered the wheat. Whereupon the price collapsed, the Russians having been the only wheat farmers to get a real price for their product, and the money for that coming out of the United States treasury.

But the whole world knows about crops in the United States. Down in Brazil they know about the dust storms that are wrecking cotton crop prospects west of the Mississippi. They know about the agitation to continue the 12-cent loans—which means an artificially maintained 12-cent price next year. And they know in Brazil they can produce cotton at a profit at 6 cents a pound!

## Big Brazilian Crop

So naturally Brazil will increase her cotton acreage next season by every square yard possible. This "possible" amount is far from trivial. Tremendous overnight expansion is impossible, of course, but Brazil's agricultural experts figure that only about one-tenth of the land capable of producing cotton—always with the 6 cents, including profit, in mind—is now under cultivation. So that the real problem is labor. But there is enough labor for much more expansion. So it can safely be assured that there will be a big increase in the Brazilian crop.

Over in England the cotton spinning people know about these dust storms, and about the prospect of the United States maintaining the 12-cent price. Some of their big mills have made the change in their looms so as to spin the Brazilian cotton. More of them now are expected to do so. They will naturally figure they can buy Brazilian cotton cheaper than United States cotton.

Over in the Japanese puppet state there are now 30,000,000 acres of cotton. Very small so far as world figures go, but there also are the facts about the situation in the United States are known, and may be expected to have results. Similarly in Egypt and India.

All of which point unerringly to the probability that throughout the world there will be a mad rush to take advantage of the situation. This promises eventually to leave the United States treasury holding the bag, owning millions of bales of cotton for which it paid 12 cents a pound, when the world market will be around 7 or 8 cents at the most, and 6 cents in all probability.

But this is only part of the trouble. Johnson and Johnson have already announced their plans for setting up cotton mills in Brazil, the idea being not only to get cheaper cotton, but to get away from the processing tax. Products of this mill would be used in place of goods formerly exported from the American mills.

## Army Is Stirred

Army and navy officers are terribly concerned over the bill just passed by the house, and soon to be considered in the senate, for taking the profit out of war. They assure everyone who will listen to them, in private, that it will also take national defense out of war, which might be very serious indeed to the nation in the event of a conflict.

The pacifists hail the bill as: "A bill to keep the United States out of war by providing in advance that there will be (1) profits for none, and (2) confiscatory taxes for all, so that it will be to every American's interest to keep the United States at peace."

Army and navy experts say that it should be called: "A bill (1) to transfer the war munitions industry now in the United States, and which might be started here, to foreign soil, (2)

to provide for a manufacturing delay in preparation in case a war is forced on this country, (3) to conscript soldiers and employees but not workmen, and (4) to repeal the oldest law of military strategy: that the best defense is a vigorous offensive."

Guided by a \$2,000,000 bonus to Eugene O. Grace, by screams of the pacifists, by complaints of soldier-bean lobbyists that "these boys fought and risked their lives while profiteers were making millions," the house voted down every qualifying amendment, passed the bill, and privately hopes the senate will write some sense into it.

## Tax on Profits

More serious, from a preparedness standpoint, is the tax provision on profits. Half of all profits up to 6 per cent and then 100 per cent of the house provision. Suppose, say army and navy officers, the du Ponts had been faced with such a situation at the entry of the United States in the World War. Would they have dared expand their plants? Suppose, instead of a preliminary period of nearly three years during which the allies were buying all the munitions they could get, and which naturally caused tremendous expansion of the du Pont, Bethlehem and other munitions plants, the United States had been involved from the first, with such restrictions on earnings as are now proposed.

The point made by the army and navy men is primarily that no manufacturer would dare expand his plant to take care of a war need. He would not be able to make enough to scrap the plant after the war, and he would have to take his chances with government auditors on depreciation charges. Altogether he would be much safer if his plant were located on foreign soil, where it would be welcomed as an element of military strength.

So that the natural development would be for foreign countries to benefit—even in time of peace—by the training of their workmen in the making of munitions, and in time of war by the possibility of big profits, which these foreign governments could tax to their heart's content and still leave something for the manufacturer.

Nearly every one agrees that the proposed law would be repealed as the first act of congress after the next declaration of war. Critics are not much worried about that. What really worries them is the prospect of American business enterprises moving abroad wholesale to escape such conditions, thus not only depriving the United States of this element of strength, but actually providing it for potential enemies.

## See Long Session

Congress is not going to be rushed to an early adjournment. It will be with us for a long time yet. Almost surely until August.

This is true despite all the flat predictions by leaders that the "must" items will be rushed through, and everything else will be abandoned. Many things may be "abandoned." But they will not be abandoned because of the time element. They will be abandoned, if at all, because actually they are not wanted. Careful examination of the left-overs at the time of adjournment will reveal the truth of this statement.

Utility heads got all pepped up a few days ago at this list of "must" measures. It did not include the public utility holding company bill. Now, despite all the statements, the probability of the moment is that a holding company bill affecting the utilities will be passed. It will not be passed in the form desired by President Roosevelt. It will be much more moderate. It will actually be what some of the utility chiefs favored as much as ten years ago.

## Soldier Bonus

Naturally, the soldier bonus was not on the "must" list. The President does not want that. But if anyone thinks that it is not going to take a lot of the senate's time, he just does not know very much about the senate. Especially, as the best predictions now are that the bonus legislation, after passing both houses, and being vetoed, will be passed over the veto by the house and then fall of passage in the senate.

This unofficial program calls for two separate considerations of the measure by the senate. That is not all. Very few administration leaders are optimistic enough to believe this congress will adjourn without giving the soldiers something. Which means that time must intervene—after a sufficient demonstration of strength to frighten the White House, and after a sufficient demonstration of weakness to frighten the American Legion—before any compromise to be worked out.

The President has let it be known to a few friends on Capitol Hill that he is willing to go to a compromise of about \$1,500,000,000. The bonus leaders know that, and will move heaven and earth to obtain it if they find that they are going to lose out on the main fight.

Incidentally, there is nothing on the "must" program about the AAA amendments, nor about the growing movement to rescind the cotton processing tax. Nor the corn and hog processing tax. Flat prediction is hereby made that there will be a lot of oratory in the senate on both before the final gavel taps.

# Problem of Rhine Revived by Hitler

## Always Played Big Part in European Politics.

Washington.—Germany's new military program, which defies the Versailles treaty, renews the old problem of Rhine land fortifications, and again brings into the news a fertile valley which has so often been an economic and political frontier.

According to the terms of the treaty Germany was allowed to retain the left bank of the Rhine providing it was completely demilitarized. Military occupations of this zone (from 1918 to 1930) by American, French and British forces insured Germany's fulfillment of her agreement.

"The Rhine has always played an important part in European politics," says the National Geographic society. "A glance at the map shows many of the most famous Rhine towns standing on the left bank of the river. This is because the Rhine was once a frontier of Roman civilization, and it was on the west side that Roman strongholds were established. Today, starting near its source, the river marks the boundary first between Switzerland and Liechtenstein, then Switzerland and Austria, Switzerland and Germany, and finally Germany and France.

## Important Waterway.

"Flowing from south to north, the Rhine is one of Europe's chief waterways. With its numerous tributaries it drains one of the most

densely populated regions of Europe, a country rich in minerals and intensively cultivated. It reaches the North sea coast opposite London, thus connecting with British shipping, and forming a natural outlet for Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

"Canals join the Rhine from the Rhone, the Marne, and the Danube. It is navigable without interruption from Basle to the sea, a distance of 300 miles. Ocean-going steamers can ascend as far as Cologne, where cargoes are transferred to river boats, but only small craft can navigate the upper Rhine above Speire.

"Since the Versailles treaty the Rhine has become an international waterway open to ships of all nations.

"Although it rises in the Swiss Alps and enters the North sea through Netherland territory, to the Germans the Rhine is their national river. It is rarely woven into their history, their art, their music, and their literature. A boat trip down this stream is a journey through Germany's past as well as her present.

## Medieval Stronghold.

"The Rhine enters the Rift valley at Basle, flowing north through the ranges of the Vosges and the Black forest. At Mainz, where the Main enters the Rhine, the slopes of the Taunus, hills turn the river westward until it reaches Bingen.

Between Bingen and Bonn it winds through the narrow Rhine gorge beneath high cliffs adorned with an

# Famous German Boy Choir Visits America



The oldest and most famous of boy choirs, the Dresden Kreuzchor, as they arrived at New York recently. This choir, whose history dates back to 1290 is composed of 60 boys ranging in age from ten to nineteen years. They will make a tour of the United States.

# Lights of New York

By L. L. STEVENSON

Curious things happen in the City of the Seven Hills. For instance: Ira Wolfert, dramatic critic of the North American Newspaper Alliance, with his wife was awaiting the opening curtain of "The Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles," when a friend touched Mrs. Wolfert on the shoulder and asked her if she had lost her purse. Hasty investigation showed that she had. The friend explained that she had boarded an Eighth avenue subway train and happened to see the purse under the seat. Opening it, she found Mrs. Wolfert's name. Knowing where her friends would be, she followed them to the Guild theater and made restoration—and saw the play with the Wolferts. Incidentally, the purse contained all the current funds of the family.

After all this time, I've found an ally in the crusade against red finger nails. He is William H. Allen, secretary of the municipal civil service commission. He holds that red finger nails remind him of the "blood of a dead horse." He has issued no orders against such feminine adornments in his department but refuses to give dictation to the five or six stenographers who serve him, if their finger nails are that deep red. Also he regards fresh air and exercise as better than make up. His attitude has caused quite a lot of talk among the girls in his department. But there is a noticeable paleness of both finger nails and faces.

In the opinion of William F. Mulrooney, who has just completed two years as head of the state liquor control board, New York has the most liberal and the best enforced liquor law of any state in the Union. There are defects, of course, he admits, holding that perfection in handling liquor will never be reached. Incidentally, Chairman Mulrooney is a teetotaler and always has been. That, after 27 years in the police department, he should be in the liquor business is a constant surprise to him. In the

there are about 4,000 scattered all over the city. Instead of allowing them to continue to park in the streets, Commissioner Morgan is planning on putting the merchants under cover and thus making small shopkeepers of them.

The start, according to present plans, is to be made on Park avenue, between One Hundred Eleventh and One Hundred Fifteenth streets, about June 1. The New York Central railroad runs above ground there and the railroad elevated structure will serve as a roof for 467 stalls, each 7 by 8 feet. The cost will be \$200,000 and in return the city will receive \$350 a week rental from each merchant.

## Reach Alaska Town in Four and One-Half Days

Chicago.—Nome, Alaska, in the shadow of the Arctic circle, is 7,000 miles from New York and Atlantic coast cities. Surface transportation time is 84 days, but now it is possible to travel from New York to the little city near the top of the world in far off Alaska in four and one-half days, announces United Air Lines.

Here's the new schedule: Leave New York on United plane at noon, arriving in Seattle in time to catch a steamer for Juneau, Alaska's capital. There one boards a Pan American plane flying over the Gold Rush trail, and in a few hours the passenger is at the farthest north city under Uncle Sam's flag.

## Snake With Hind Legs Is Found in Nebraska

Omaha, Neb.—A snake with two legs was brought to town by Henry O. Palmer from his farm at Louisville. He says snakes with legs are not rare, but they do have them sometimes. The fact that these may properly be called hind legs makes the reptile particularly worthy of notice, in its captor's opinion. The snake is a spreading viper, one of the nonvenomous kind. It is two feet long and its legs are about five inches from the tip of the tail. They don't amount to anything to speak of, because they measure only a little more than a quarter of an inch, but nobody can deny that they are legs.

# IN DIJON

By JACK DE WITT

McClure Newspaper Syndicate, WNU Service.

MIKE DELANEY of the plain clothes detail fished at his immaculate civilian suit with a whisk brush.

"Going out tonight, Mike?" The question was tossed at him in a friendly carelessness by Lieutenant Reese.

"Talkin' Ann to dinner," replied the plain clothes man, "and no gaps from you."

Lieutenant Reese looked up from the files, reports and "Wanted" circulars he had been perusing, and his large face beamed.

"Ann's a swell kid, and no fool in." But—ever been in Dijon, Mike?"

"Dijon?" queried the plain clothes officer. His lean, clean-shaven face came alive with a happy memory. "You mean Dijon in France? Sure, I was there. Right after the war. Why?"

"Ever meet the Bluebeard of Dijon?" asked the lieutenant, without humor.

Mike Delaney eyed the officer suspiciously.

"What you getting at?" he wanted to know before committing himself.

"Just this," the lieutenant thrust a paper towards him. "First pickup order we ever got from a foreign country. And then frogs go for rewards, too. See the figure? Fifteen hundred American dollars reward for the Bluebeard of Dijon."

Mike Delaney read hurriedly.

"They seem to think this mug's in this town," he said to the lieutenant.

"Yeah," agreed the desk officer without enthusiasm, "but they have been trying to trail him for five years. No chance pickin' him now. Killed a lotta women, didn't he? I didn't read it carefully."

Mike Delaney was reading aloud—"Wanted for Murder, Nicholas Lamstra. The Bluebeard of Dijon. Killed six women and fled before collecting insurance for last victim. The trail of this man has been followed in Spain, Italy, Australia, Hawaii, and Trinidad—where it was lost five years ago. Recently a letter was received by a Dijon acquaintance, mailed in your city by the subject of this circular. No photograph of Lamstra is available. When last known in Dijon—where he spent the greater part of his life in the restaurant business, he was 5 feet 9 inches tall. Weight 100 pounds. Dark hair and eyes. His appearance has undoubtedly changed considerably but he may be readily identified by a triangular scar, result of a knife wound, two inches below the point of his right shoulder blade. He may be employed in a restaurant in your city and he may be the proprietor of a restaurant of the better type."

Delaney paused in his reading. The lieutenant observed: "How you going to identify him from that description after these years? Got fat by now, if he works in restaurants."

Delaney was still thinking of Dijon when he reached the sidewalk. Suddenly he laughed aloud.

It was 7:30 when Mike Delaney presented his broad shoulders in the doorway of a neat suburban cottage.

Ann Morgan met him at the door. "Late, Mr. Delaney. Fifteen minutes late. Give an account."

"Mike Delaney said nothing. He usually went tongue-tied for the first few minutes in Ann Morgan's company anyway. When his little coupe was nosing through downtown traffic again, and when Ann had cuddled comfortably close to him, he said half-mustily:

"If we had fifteen hundred dollars we could get that bungalow in the Sunset addition and make a good, big down payment to the real estate people."

"Mike Delaney," the girl interrupted him, "quit worrying about that bungalow."

"Frank this is a beautiful town. There is a lot of money in this town. I'll let him follow until he can row them take it back."

In the next restaurant Mike Delaney again chose a booth. The waiter went through the usual routine for expertness and speed. After the soup was brought, he whisked in sudden alarm.

Waiters, headwaiters and proprietors that night seemed to have rehearsed a little act. Mike Delaney was brought to the attention of a waiter who was up to the original forty, was Mike Delaney's pocket and the waiter fell on the serio-comedy with Ann and her escort on the sidewalk seeking another eating house.

It was as they were approaching the sixth restaurant that Ann Morgan turned an amused and hurt expression upon Mike Delaney.

"If that's your way to get that fifteen hundred dollars you say we need, I can assure you, Mr. Delaney, we no longer need it."

She stepped into a taxicab parked at the curb and was gone.

Saddened, alone, Mike Delaney entered still another restaurant.

The head waiter came and went. And then there was a hitch in the play. An irate, pig-eyed gentleman came crowding to the booth.

"Ah," said this one, "the old mouse trick." He filled the booth with his bulk. Mike Delaney rose and seemed to be estimating his chances for a fast getaway.

But the proprietor had another idea. "Call the police, Oscar," he said over his shoulder to the hovering, alarmed waiter. "And you, wise guy, sit down." He pushed Mike Delaney back into his seat.

"It's the old, what you call, shake-down trick," assumed the cafe proprietor viciously, "and you go to jail for it."

A uniformed policeman was elbowing his way through a knot of curious restaurant patrons near the booth.

"What's wrong?" the officer asked, and then he saw Mike Delaney. The policeman's wondering gaze traveled from Delaney's face to the now almost purple one of the cafe owner.

"You've seen that trick before," Delaney was saying slowly and with a menace in his voice that the cafe man did not miss. "You've seen it in Dijon. A gang of carefree American soldiers used to pull it there to get a little cash."

At the word Dijon the eyes of the fat man suddenly glistened.

"It's a lie, Dijon—I do not know what it means. Arrest that man, officer—arr—" but his voice trailed off. It was his turn now to be hurriedly for an avenue of escape.

... and hurry off his shift, instructed Mike Delaney, at the police headquarters a few minutes later. "I want to see that scar before I go take Ann to dinner, return some dough I collected—and do some heavy explaining."

## Traditional Life Span of 70 Passed by Many

Revolutionary conclusions about why people live longer than they did a generation ago and may be expected to live still longer in the future are suggested by new studies of death-rate statistics in Great Britain by three Scottish mathematicians, Col. A. G. McKendrick, Dr. W. O. Kermack and Dr. P. L. McKinlay, all of Edinburgh, says the Providence Journal.

One conclusion is that the chief cause of how long an individual lives is what kind of constitution is acquired during the first 10 to 15 years of life. Another is that living to be ninety or one hundred promises not to be improbable instead of the traditional limit of three score and ten.

Sanitation and medical science have greatly decreased deaths among children and young people, so that the percentage of middle-aged people has been increasing. There has been no direct evidence, however, that the old people are living any longer or that the maximum span of human life is lengthening.

Many experts have suspected, indeed, that this life span might increase, as one result of keeping alive many children who are naturally weak and cannot be expected to live long anyway.

The new Scottish investigation is the first evidence that this pessimistic conclusion may be wrong. British children born in each decade since 1845 are found to live a little longer than children born in the previous decade.

Nothing seems to influence this except the year of birth, which implies that what happens to children under fifteen seems to be the chief factor in living long or dying early. Extensions of the same computations to future decades imply that substantially increased percentages of the people now being born may expect to live beyond ninety.

The Whisky Insurrection. Gen. Henry Lee, former revolutionary officer, Virginia, legislator and congressman, was appointed by President Washington to command the 15,000 soldiers sent to Pennsylvania to quell the so-called whisky rebellion. It ended without bloodshed but at a cost to the national government of \$1,500,000.—Pittsburgh Courier Magazine.