

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, March 2.—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has drafted a permanent Neutrality bill, which is quite likely to be adopted without material change. The objective is, of course, to keep the United States out of the European War which seems to be imminent.

The major provisions of the bill are a mandatory embargo on arms and on lending Government money to powers at war, with broad power granted to the President to forbid Americans to travel on vessels of belligerents or to ship any goods other than arms upon which he may declare an embargo, on any American vessel.

Also, in time of peace the President could declare certain commodities "implements of war" and forbid their export without a Federal license.

That this or any other possible Act of Congress would effectively keep this country out of war involving the great nations of the world is seriously questioned by some of the Senators, for whom Senator Johnson of California is spokesman. He declares that it cannot possibly work.

The attitude of Congress, however, is one of political isolation for the United States, an attitude which those who hold it do not regard as contradictory to the Secretary of State's policy of economic internationalism, nor inconsistent with our participation in the international armament race in which all of the great powers are now engaged.

Preparing For War

It is pointed out by some shrewd observers that the frantic efforts of England, Germany, Japan, Italy, France and Russia to prepare for another great war before they have finished paying for the last one, have been stimulated rather than checked by the extension of the American policy of neutrality.

In the last war the belligerent nations relied upon the United States not only for war materials but for foodstuffs, cotton and other commodities which they do not produce themselves. Now they are afraid that they will not be able to get such supplies from this side of the ocean so they have started to prepare themselves for war on their own resources.

With the other great powers enlarging their navies, it seems essential for us to do the same as a matter of national defense. Now we are committed to building two new great warships of 35,000 tons to match the two of similar size for which England has already laid the keels.

The immediate stimulus to Britain's naval enlargement was Germany's action in building a fleet of "pocket" battleships and in other ways giving evidence of belligerent intent. Britain's activity stirred Japan to launch its own big navy program, which gave a further fillip to American big navy propaganda.

Italy's growing ambition for domination of the Mediterranean is behind that nation's naval expansion, and that, in turn, has intensified Britain's resolve to be

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prepared to defend its route to the Orient by way of the Suez canal.

France, with its perpetual fear of Germany, felt obliged to meet the challenge from Berlin.

Thus Washington sees the major nations of the world concentrating their efforts on preparations for war and piling up their bonded indebtedness to a point where the burden of taxation is likely to become intolerable.

Besides navies, all of the nations are building competitive military air fleets as fast as they can, and in that, too, the United States is following their leadership—and at the same time enacting neutrality laws as evidence that we do not intend to get into another war.

To make the paradox more complicated, our State Department is hard at work negotiating trade agreements with all the world designed to make it easier for other nations, not only to buy our products but to sell us theirs and so raise more money with which to go to war.

It is a situation which is giving many members of the Administration and of Congress greater concern than they are willing publicly to admit. The demands of the other nations for products of the United States which they can use in their war preparations is already being felt, but under our present neutrality policy much of the demand cannot be supplied.

Problems in Steel

One of the big demands from abroad for American goods, and one which will grow as the naval race becomes more intense, is for steel.

We need steel, also, for our new battleships, but so far the Navy Department has been unable to get bids from the steel makers, who claim they cannot supply the requirements because of the Walsh-Healey Act, which prohibits Government purchases in quantities above \$10,000 except from manufacturers who observe the six-hour day and the five-day week in their plants.

This brings organized labor into the international and armament picture with another complication close at hand. John Lewis has declared the purpose of the C. I. O. to proceed aggressively to organize the workers in the steel industry, as he began to do in the automobile industry. The result may easily be a widespread labor war which will prevent anybody from getting steel from American mills for any purpose for a long time.

It is all a very complex situation, to which no little attention is being paid by the President's advisers and the leaders in Congress.

Nobody has talked much about the international outlook in public, because nobody has so far been able to put forward a single comprehensive program. The belief is growing here, however, that the whole subject of international relations will have to be brought out into the open for re-examination before long.

RUSK

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Isaacs and small son, Johnny, of Albemarle, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Isaacs and family. They were accompanied home by Mrs. Isaacs, who will spend two weeks with them.

Mr. R. A. Jenkins of Winston-Salem, is spending a few days here, with his family, convalescing from a recent illness.

Little Miss Peggy Jo Martin returned to her home at High Point last week, after a two weeks' visit with her grandmother, Mrs. W. S. White.

Mrs. Vance Burch is visiting her son, Mr. Paul Burch, at Mountain Park, this week.

Mrs. J. W. Martin spent last Thursday at East Bend, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Martin.

Mrs. America Butcher returned last week from a visit to her son, at Martinsville, Va.

Clarence Greenwood spent the week-end in Kannapolis.

H. C. Jenkins and family of State Road, were Sunday visitors here.

Rev. Lester Johnson of Mountain View, was a business visitor here Monday.

TOO MANY ACCIDENTS

A haggard-looking man applied for a marriage license but was refused because he did not bring his bride-to-be along.

"She's down in the car," he told the clerk, "but she can't come up."

"Well, we'll go to her then," the clerk suggested.

When they arrived at the car, the clerk was quite surprised to see the car loaded down with seven children.

"Who do all these children belong to?" he asked.

"Ours," was the answer.

"Yours?"

"Yeh, you see the road was rough and we had a long way to come, otherwise we would have been here sooner."

TIMELY FARM QUESTIONS ANSWERED AT STATE COLLEGE

Question: Are thin shelled or ridged eggs suitable for hatching?

Answer: No. Such eggs do not hatch well. Select for hatching only those eggs that are clean, fresh, well-formed, of good shell texture, and weighing 24 ounces to the dozen. Inspect carefully all eggs selected for hatching purposes and set aside all those that are round, small, short, or those that have enlarged ends, as such eggs will not develop a normal, hatchable embryo.

Question: How can I go about developing a Ginseng bed in North Carolina?

Answer: No experimental work has been done in the State with this plant, but a bulletin on "The Cultivation of American Ginseng" has been issued by the U. S. De-

partment of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., and copies may be secured by writing this address and requesting Farmers Bulletin No. 551. The environmental demands of the plant are difficult to control and the possibility of losses is great as it takes from five to seven years to produce high grade roots.

Question: Is it possible for an individual farmer to make an analysis of his soil?

Answer: This is, of course, possible, where the grower has the proper training, but even with this the cost would be prohibitive. The Department of Agronomy at State College will make this analysis for citizens of North Carolina provided the samples are drawn as prescribed. Full instructions for taking the soil sample and mailing instructions will be given upon application to the Department of Agronomy, N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station, State College, Raleigh, N. C.

Just a hundred years ago, from 1834 to 1835, the United States was wholly out of debt.

THE OLD DEVIL
Two little girls were on their way home from Sunday School, and were solemnly discussing the lesson.

"Do you believe there is a devil?" asked one.

"No," said the other promptly. "It's like Santa Claus, it's your father."

"What is the name of the species I just shot?" asked the amateur hunter.

"I've just asked him sir," said the guide. "He says his name is Smith."

INEXPERT

Father: "I never kissed a girl until I met your mother. Will you be able to say the same to your son when you become a married man?"

Son: "Not with such a straight face as you can, father."

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