

# Looking at Washington

The importance of our foreign trade is apparent when one reads that the United States usually exports two-thirds of its refined copper and patent textiles she has been selling to side upper leather; one-half of its annual rubber crop and gum rosin; one-third of its agricultural machinery, sewing machines, lubricating greases, lubricating oils and tobacco; one-fourth of its office appliances and power driven metal working machinery; two-fifths of its aircraft, dried fruits, printing and book-binding machinery and borax; one-fifth of its tractors; and one-sixth of its radio apparatus.

As expressed by Francis B. Sayre, Assistant Secretary of State, a farm population of 3,200,000 people is supported by agricultural exports, and in the industrial field conservative calculations estimate that 7,500,000 workers are dependent upon export sales. Based on figures for the fiscal year 1929, the loss in American foreign sales during the years 1934 and 1935 aggregated more than six and one-half billion dollars, or a billion dollars more than the amounts expended by the Government during the two years to take care of our unemployed.

The other side of the picture is emphasized in the familiar declaration that "to sell, we must buy." Among the things that the United States imports from abroad are coffee, crude rubber, raw silk, book pulp, spices, tin minerals, etc. The nations which buy from us must pay for their purchases either in goods, services, or gold. As most readers know, the United States has already acquired a vast hoard of gold. Besides, the gold stocks of foreign nations are so low that payment in gold is impossible. To pay in services, other nations must be able to sell us transportation, insurance, or credit in the form of loans, but the United States needs no credit from abroad, is able to handle its own insurance, and along with other nations, is subsidizing ships to build up its own merchant marines. Obviously, this leaves other nations unable to buy our goods in quantity unless they are permitted to sell their products in this country.

Contrary to the popular impression that imports decrease employment in this country, the statistics of the Federal Reserve from the years 1919-1935 show that during every year in which imports increased, factory employment also increased. With a single exception, the figures also reveal that during each year which imports decreased, factory employment also decreased. Naturally when importers bring into this country goods from other countries, they start a chain of operations which includes transportation, servicing, processing, manufacturing, and distribution.

Last week in this column, we discussed the effect of Secretary Hull's fourteen reciprocal trade treaties in relation to world trade. Since that time, the President has increased tariff rates on bleached, printed, dyed, and colored cotton cloths, an average of 32 percent, following the collapse of negotiations with Japan, seeking to secure some restrictions of Japanese shipments of these goods to the United States. The increase affected about 58 percent, on the square yard basis, of the total cotton cloths imported in 1935, and about 90 percent of such imports from Japan.

This action was hardly in accord with Secretary Hull's program but the President felt that he had to meet a special situation. In this connection, it is pointed out that Japanese shipments to this country during the first quarter of this year increased nearly 70 percent over those of a year ago. While this seems to be a large gain, the Tariff Commission points out that in 1935 our imports of cotton cloths from all sources were less than 1 percent of our domestic production. Critics of the President's action point out that Japan in 1935 sold us \$153,000,000 worth of goods and bought from us \$203,000,000

worth. Moreover, the Japanese have been buying more than \$20 worth of raw cotton from us for every 1 worth of cotton textiles she has been selling to us. The State Department is confronting other difficulties in its effort to boost our trade abroad. Brazil is said to be negotiating agreements with Germany and Italy without according to this country "most-favored-nations" treatment. Australia is said to have applied discriminatory tariff rates against certain American goods. Particularly disturbing is the situation in North China where the Japanese are charged with encouraging smuggling goods into China and with practically prohibiting the Chinese government from collecting duties. This means in effect, that the traders of other nations, being forced to pay duties in China, will be unable to compete with the Japanese and will therefore lose the Chinese market. Just exactly what steps will be taken by other nations in regard to the smuggling traffic in North China, are uncertain but it is said that the recent agreement of the United States to buy silver from China is calculated to put pressure on Japan and that the probability is that Great Britain will also take action to halt the smuggling operation.

Another five to four decision of the Supreme Court has voided the Municipal Bankruptcy Act, under which Congress two years ago authorized political subdivisions of States to readjust their indebtedness in Federal courts. The majority held that the law invaded the rights of the States but Justices Cardozo, Brandeis, and Stone, and Chief Justice Hughes agreed that the statute had been framed with "sedulous regard to the structure of the Federal system".

By this time, it is apparent that a majority of the Court is adamant in its opposition to New Deal legislation, although three Justices have expressed their approval in twenty-two dissenting opinions. This means that there will probably be no effort to amend the Constitution. The Administration, looking at the adverse decisions as temporary obstacles, will press toward its objectives. Meanwhile, the President will fill expected vacancies in the Court with jurists holding views in accord with the "liberal" Justices. Two appointments would thus provide the majority necessary to sanction most of the upset legislation.

As a result of the Guffey decision, all thought of little N. R. A.'s in basic industries will be abandoned for the present and the activities of the National Labor Relations Board greatly restricted. Heretofore,

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the N. L. R. B. has assumed that companies with large interstate trade were under Federal law against unfair labor practices but the Court has made it plain that labor relations in manufacturing are outside the jurisdiction of Congress. The social security program is not immediately affected.

During the last month several incidents have happened tending to bring into prominence the Far East and possibilities to affect the relations of the United States and Japan. About three weeks ago, the United States called to the attention of the Japanese Government large smuggling operations from Manchuria into northern China. About a week later, upon the heels of news telling of Japanese troop movements south of the Great Wall, the State Department reiterated its faith in anti-war treaties and observed that it expected other nations to observe them. Shortly thereafter the Treasury's silver purchase program brought aid to the weakened Chinese currency system and made it unnecessary for the Chinese Government to accept aid from Japan. Then the President boosted the tariff on cotton textile goods affecting Japanese shipments to this country. So far, there has been no counter-movement from Japan.

### Civil Service Examinations

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced open competitive examinations as follows:

Assistant petroleum engineer, \$2,600 a year, Geological Survey.  
Teacher in community school (primary, intermediate, special or opportunity, or one-teacher day), \$1,620 a year, Indian Field Service (including Alaska).

Statistical analysts (transportation), various grades, \$3,200 to \$5,600 a year, Bureau of Statistics, and Bureau of Motor Carriers, Interstate Commerce Commission.

Assistant superintendent of brush factory, \$3,200 a year, foreman of brush factory, \$2,600 a year, United States Penitentiary Annex, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Full information may be obtained from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at the post office or customhouse in any city which has a post office of the first or the second class, or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

Britain expects to start an Atlantic airline soon. Survey reveals that boys still prefer baseball to radio.

## Commerce News Letter

Retail trade levels throughout the country were well sustained in keeping with the trend of recent weeks, while in virtually all cases the substantial margin over last year continued, according to nationwide reports this week to the Department of Commerce. Wholesale leveled off in most markets, although brisk business in New York reflected excellent retail results over the country. There were no signs of recession in industry, while seasonal employment rose sharply and construction moved forward with increased momentum. The agricultural situation was affected by weather conditions, rain having brought relief to some areas, while there remained considerable evidence of drought damage.

Spotted drought areas were reported by St. Louis, Memphis, Norfolk, Savannah, Seattle and Louisville. Corn was in good shape in Missouri except in the Southeast and Southwest where moisture was lacking. In Memphis, it was estimated 10 percent of the cotton crop in that immediate section will have to be replanted, while in the Norfolk area truck crops were damaged. Dry weather cut the production of tobacco plants in the blue grass region of Kentucky, while the strawberry crop in the Paducah area was cut to 40 cars from 827 last year. The Louisville report also said that lamb prices at Flemingsburg were the highest since 1929. Heavy rains in Texas delayed farm work and retarded the onion harvest. Excellent rains were also reported



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ed by Kansas City, Omaha and Minneapolis with scattered showers in the St. Louis and Savannah areas. Dust storms in Nebraska were ended. Celery and tomatoes continued to move in fair volume from Florida and the first car of melons was shipped from Lake county.

Seasonal farm crops created a labor demand in the Portland area where 2,000 berry pickers were wanted and it was indicated that demand would increase as other crops mature.

The National Re-employment 530 workers and the Louisville Service of Kentucky placed 1, report said there was a shortage of building craftsmen in 15 principal Kentucky cities. In Pittsburgh 12,362 were dropped from relief rolls. The berry fields of Kentucky and sugar beet fields of Nebraska and Montana were also employing hundreds. In Kansas City, there was a shortage of skilled mechanics in brick-laying and iron workers' trades. Private employment gains were also reported by St. Louis Indianapolis, Memphis, Wilmington and Detroit. April factory employment in Toledo was the highest in five years. Retail trade in Portland was affected by strikes in the logging, sawmill and automobile mechanic groups. The Railway and Terminal Co., of Dallas resorted to a 10 percent pay out to 750 workers.

A Chicago firm planned to spend \$1,000,000 to develop a 20,000,000 ton coal field in Randolph and Macon counties, Missouri. The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., added 100 workers to the Springfield, Mass., plant. Industrial power consumption in Detroit reached a new peak for the year and ground was broken for a million dollar 11-story addition to the General Motors research laboratories. Buffalo reported factory employment and pay rolls highest since 1930. A corporation was chartered for a \$7,500,000 pulp and paper mill at Port St. Joe, Fla. Announcement of price advances, effective in the third quarter, was expected to make June steel production highest of the year, according to the Pittsburgh report. Heavier industrial operations tended upward

in New York. The Southern Pacific Railroad asked bids on 3,000 freight cars. The Monsanto Chemical Co., of St. Louis planned to spend most of a \$6,000,000 stock issue for a phosphoric acid plant and mineral lands at Columbia, Tenn. In Cleveland, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad placed orders for \$11,925,000 of rolling stock, while the machine tool industry had 84 percent in the first four months of the year than last year.

Dallas reported 438 new oil drilling permits, highest for the year. Water freight traffic was inaugurated between Charleston and Columbia, S. C. Pittsburgh reported water commerce of 3,016,999 tons in April, compared with 2,086,759 in the same month last year. A Pulaski, Tenn., firm shipped 500,000 bees to North Dakota. Cash income from the sale of farm products in April was estimated at \$490,000,000, compared with \$468,000,000 in the same month last year.

### C. C. C. TO HAVE OPENINGS FOR YOUNG MEN IN JULY

The North Carolina State Board of Charities and Public Welfare has been assured that North Carolina will have a quota of CCC enrollment for July. Just what the quota for Pender County will be in the next enrollment is indefinite. The County Welfare Department suggests that boys, both white and colored, who want to make application for a July enlistment do so as soon as possible in order to avoid a last minute rush. All applicants must apply in person at the County Welfare Office.

How a rotten police department robbed the shopkeepers and carried off their plunder in police cars—Read about it in The American Weekly, distributed with next Sunday's Washington Herald.—adv.

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