

Hugo S. Sims,
Washington Correspondent

While the people of the United States concentrate their attention upon preparedness and think of the outbreak of actual warfare, they are overlooking the existence of a stern struggle that has been going on in the field of international economics for a number of years.

The economic warfare is waged with different weapons but it is just about as deadly, in the long run, to the well-being of the people of any nation. Practically every nation seeks to obtain economic advantages over other nations by erecting tariffs, establishing quotas, trade restrictions, exchange regulations and currency manipulations. It is a conflict based upon the belief that one nation can prosper only at the expense of another nation.

The most persistent efforts to bring order into the chaotic tangle of world trade has been the reciprocal trade program of the United States, fathered and pushed by the dignified Cordell Hull, Secretary of State. Mr. Hull is firm in the faith that one of the best ways to settle the ills of the world is to promote international trade upon terms of comparative equality. For this reason, the trade treaties made by the United States are not exclusive. They do not work to the disadvantage of other nations but provide that reductions and concessions apply to all nations.

The idea is to begin the gradual reduction of tariffs and the steady removal of restrictions that hamper world commerce. This could not be accomplished by agreements which limit benefits to the nations concerned. Imagine, for example, the United States with a trade policy that required separate agreements and different tariff rates with each country in the world. Imagine then, that every nation in the world had a similar set-up and you will get a faint idea of the tangled confusion which would result in world commerce.

Let it be admitted that the United States is interested in reviving world commerce because of a belief that it will prove an economic benefit to the United States. This will be accomplished by facilitating the swap of American goods and services for the goods and services of other nations. It will not be done by selfishly attempting to swap American goods and services exclusively for gold.

This nation now has so much gold that it is a glut on the market. Foreign countries have so little that they are unable to buy American goods and services to the fullest extent because of an inability to settle for their purchases in gold. Tariffs and similar trade restrictions prevent foreign people from settling for purchases in this country by sending us goods or services.

As Congress gets underway, it is very apparent that a determined drive is beginning to hamstring the reciprocal trade program. A number of bills have been prepared and various protected industries are asserting that the trade treaties are ruining them. Already, Secretary Hull charges that the Capitol swarms with lobbyists intent upon scuttling the program.

An interesting development occurred early this month when Col. Frank Knox, publisher of Chicago and vice-presidential nominee in 1936, called for a radical revision of his Party's traditional tariff policy, in a speech delivered in South Dakota. Taking cognizance of the complaint of agriculture, Col. Knox declared that if the Republicans "are sincerely intent on giving back to the farmer his just and equitable rights to a dollar of equal purchasing power with that of the urban dweller," they must "forthwith abandon the present system of excessively high tariffs and go back to a moderate tariff on domestic manufactures, only sufficient to protect American wage standards and nothing else."

Col. Knox used the automobile industry as an illustration, saying that it was one of the most highly competitive, but that it required no high protective tariff to protect and maintain it. The cost of automobiles has been steadily lowered, wages paid have constantly increased, and the use of automobiles widely developed.

Referring to the complaint of farmers, Col. Knox said that it had its origin in the recognition by the farmer, as a class, that he had to sell his products in a competitive market and had to spend his income in an artificially high-priced market for the commodities he used. Being tired of "con-

A plea for the reduction of taxes was heard

—Tuesday in Raleigh by the General Assembly's joint finance committee. The plea was made by representatives of railroads operating in North Carolina, who hung the specter of government ownership of the railroads before the legislators and said taxes have "passed the point of confiscation."

"We'd like to run under our own steam," said William T. Joyner of Raleigh, division counsel for the Southern Railroad. "We'd like to pay our own expenses, but if we do not, there is only one alternative."

"Railroads have to run and the government will run them," he added. "And if the government takes over operation of the railroads, there isn't going to be the tax money in them that there has been." The finance body was working on the 1939 revenue bill. In another public hearing Tuesday it heard representatives of state banks assert that if the state continues to levy an income tax on them, they may be forced to give up their state charters and become national banks.

R. L. Pope of Thomasville, president of the North Carolina Bankers Association, told the committee state banks are being "discriminated against" and cannot "compete" with national banks which pay no state income tax.

Joyner told the committee he and the other railroad representatives approached the committee "prostrate, nearly hopeless and almost completely destitute" to seek reduction in the franchise tax which cost the carriers \$1,443,492 last year, and in the income tax they paid when they "had no net income."

Recent Bride



Mrs. Gwyn Crouse (above), of Woodstown, N. J., who was, before her marriage at Twin Oaks, on Christmas eve (Saturday, December 24, 1938) Miss Ethel Ward, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. F. Ward, Cox's Chapel. Rev. W. H. Handy performed the wedding ceremony.—Photo Courtesy Winston-Salem Journal.

Judge Hoyle Sink says grand juries hinder work

—of the courts and has outgrown their usefulness. Judge Sink, Lexington, renewing twelve years of opposition to the grand jury system, told the new jury in Guilford Superior Court, in Greensboro, Monday that the grand jury amounts merely to a cumbersome rubber-stamp for the court, and that instead of aiding the court it is more often a hindrance.

Judge Sink made it plain he was not criticizing the personnel of the Guilford grand jury or any other, it was the system he was after. The jury was a valuable institution back in the old days when citizens needed protection from persecution by the judiciary, and when law enforcement officers were so few in number the jury was needed to keep an eye on violators, said the judge, but declared conditions have so far changed the grand jury is out of date.

Impeachment of Secretary Perkins was sought

—in proceedings started Tuesday in Washington, D. C., when Representative J. Parnell Thomas (R), of New Jersey, introduced a resolution in the House calling for an investigation to determine whether impeachment is warranted. The proceedings began against Miss Perkins, Secretary of Labor, and two aides, charged crimes and misdemeanors by obstructing the deportation of Harry Bridges, Australian-born west coast labor leader.

The action marked the first attempt to impeach a cabinet member since 1876, when Secretary of War William W. Belknap was absolved of accepting bribes.

Named to High Court



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Felix Frankfurter, of Massachusetts, professor of the Harvard Law School, who was named by President Roosevelt to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Frankfurter was named to the vacancy created by the death last July of Benjamin N. Cardozo.

Debate began on the \$725,000,000 relief bill

—Tuesday in the United States Senate in Washington, D. C., with charges by economy-minded Democrats that a campaign of "misstatement" has been directed against the measure and protests from administration leaders that WPA rolls must be cut 65 per cent. unless the appropriation is increased \$150,000,000.

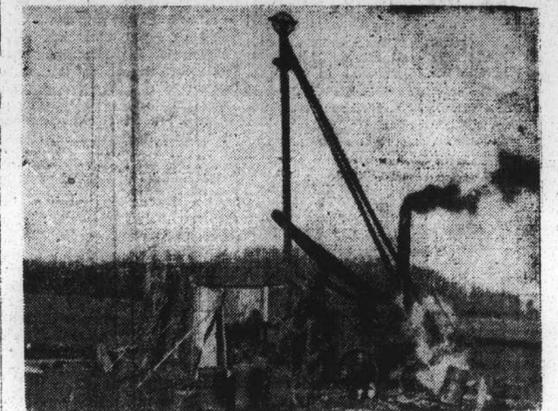
Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley (D.), Ky., who is leading the new deal fight to increase the appropriation to the \$875,000,000 sought by President Roosevelt, predicted victory by a narrow margin. Chairman Alva Adams (D.), S. C., of the Senate appropriations committee, who is floor manager of the bill, is confident that the lower figure will prevail.

Informal polls indicated that the issue may be decided by fewer than six votes. While Barkley intimated that a final vote may not come until the latter part of the week, Adams and his aides are hopeful of disposing of the subject before too much pressure is brought upon some senators to whip them back into the administration corral.

The issue was stated by Adams Tuesday to be new deal spending, continuation of which, he said, would wreck the nation's credit. Backing him in his fight to hold the relief appropriation to the lower figure are Vice President John N. Garner, Chairman Carter Glass (D.), Va., of the "potent appropriations" committee, Senator James F. Byrnes (D.), S. C., close friend of Glass and one-time presidential adviser, and Senator Pat Harrison (D.), Miss., who, as chairman of the powerful finance committee, has broken with Mr. Roosevelt on his tax and spending policies.

Aligned with Barkley are Senator Kenneth McKellar (D.), Tenn., most of the new deal Democrats and a few Republicans, including Senator William E. Borah (R.), Idaho, who recently warned that there are thousands of persons in America living like "beasts" and that the reduced relief appropriation would force them into starvation.

Well-drilling Equipment At Work In Sparta



Pictured above is a view of the well-drilling equipment of the Virginia Machinery and Well Company in action in Sparta, drilling one of the 300-foot wells which will supply Sparta with water. Bonds for this PWA project have been sold and work on the water lines will begin as soon as it is definitely established that a sufficient amount of water can be obtained from the wells. The well shown in the picture is located on the property purchased from S. W. Brown, north of Gentry Memorial Methodist Church. A 20,000-gallon tank on a 100-foot tower will be erected on this site, and will furnish pressure and a water reserve for Sparta.—Photo Courtesy Winston-Salem Journal.

Barcelona was shelled Tuesday by the rebels

—under Spanish Insurgent General Francisco Franco's army, the first three columns of which rolled its way to within a mile and a half of the city's center.

The insurgents' southern army on wheels, almost without firing a shot, captured the government airbase at Prat de Llobregat, and then sped along the coast to the suburbs of the capital where it expected to halt until the other armies could sweep across the coastal plains to cut the city off completely.

The dash was made by General Juan Yague's Moroccan corps which earlier had been reported at Gava, seven miles away.

Within Barcelona proper, reports reaching the border said, the calm of the refugee-choked city of 2,000,000 people was beginning to break as it became apparent there was no means by which they could flee to the north.

Alleghany County teachers will meet here on Saturday

—morning, January 28, at ten o'clock, in the Sparta High School auditorium, it has been announced by W. C. Thompson, superintendent of Alleghany County schools.

General school problems are to be discussed, it is said.

All teachers in the county are expected to attend this meeting.

Six Herefords were sold recently from an Alleghany herd

—to A. A. Fields, Bel Air, Md. Mr. Fields, who has been conducting a large dairy at Bel Air, is now replacing his herd with purebred Hereford stock. The cattle sold went from the herd of Kenney Truitt, Sparta.

Mr. Truitt's herd is one of the prize herds of Alleghany County, it is said, and has won a number of ribbons at county fairs where cattle from the herd have been exhibited.

The state Baptist Sunday School Convention for 1939

—is to be held in Winston-Salem, on Thursday and Friday, February 2 and 3. Officers of Baptist Sunday Schools in Alleghany County, and other interested persons, are urged to attend this meeting.

All who desire to attend are urged to see their pastor, in order that transportation may be arranged. Over-night entertainment in private homes in Winston-Salem will be provided.

THE U. S. EMBASSY AWAITED A REPLY

—Tuesday night to the sixth note Washington has sent to Germany concerning the status of American Jews under rigid Nazi anti-Semitic laws. Assurances regarding their treatment was requested.

Births and deaths in North Carolina decreased in 1938

—according to figures released recently by the State Board of Health's Division of Vital Statistics, of which Dr. R. T. Stimpson is the Director.

The total number of births in the state during 1938 was 80,603, as compared with 80,644 in 1937, a decrease of 41, while deaths in 1938 numbered 33,765, showing a decrease under the previous year. Of the drop of 335 in the total number of deaths, 204 are accounted for in the decreased number of persons meeting death by accident. Deaths from what are termed preventable accidents in 1938 totaled 1,429, as compared with 1,633 in 1937.

"Best Meal in Years"



SACRAMENTO, Calif.—That's what Tom Mooney, jailed 23 years ago for alleged participation in a California bombing, declared as he had his first meal with friends as a free man after his pardon by Governor Culbert Olson. His release was widely acclaimed by radical and labor groups.

"When a Woman Decides" is to be given here

—in the Sparta High School auditorium, on Saturday night, January 28, by persons from the Hooker School community. The play is a comedy in three acts.

According to advance information on the production, Billie Defoe, whose part is to be played by Oliver Sidden, will receive \$2,000,000.00, according to his father's will—but not until he marries a woman worth that much money, or more. Many complications arise when Mr. Defoe tries to comply with the terms of his father's will. Each new female that appears on the scene only tangles Billie's affairs more and more, creating one hilarious scene after another until Billie wishes he was a Mormon.

The cast of characters follows: Bessie Hayden—a poor little maiden, Lois Edwards; Silas Sawyer—Billie's lawyer, Bert McCann; Hilda M. Burl—just an ancient girl, Thelma Cheek; Maybell Tony—pretty but phoney, Clytie Duncan; Matilda Petter—a real man getter, May Brooks; Rastus Toll—blacker than coal, Eugene Chappell, and Mandy Dehaven—no whiter than a raven, Marie Saunders.

A "Puppet" show will be presented tomorrow (Friday)

—at Sparta, Piney Creek and Laurel Springs, by the Division of Oral Hygiene of the North Carolina State Board of Health.

This show will be a demonstration of dental care, and will be shown for Grammar Grade school children.

The schedule follows: Laurel Springs School, 9:00 a. m.; Sparta School, 11:00 a. m., and Piney Creek School, 2:00 p. m.

Demonstrations can be shown only in schools having auditoriums and electric current.

ECONOMY ADVOCATES IN THE SENATE DENOUNCED

—administration figures on relief needs Tuesday as inaccurate, at the height of a bitter, slashing debate on raising or reducing WPA appropriations. The controversy was made the more intense by the acknowledged fact that a close vote was expected.

Frank P. Graham attacked the proposed tuition

—boost at the three units of the University of North Carolina Tuesday, saying that the suggestion of such an increase applies a "test of wealth instead of merit" to prospective students. Dr. Graham is president of the Greater University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. The two other units of the university are the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and North Carolina State College, Raleigh. The attack by Dr. Graham was made in Raleigh in the General Assembly.

Speaking before the joint appropriations committee, Graham warned that boosts in entrance fees would violate the spirit of North Carolina's constitution and traditions, and asked the General Assembly to increase the annual appropriation for the greater university by \$908,233.

Of that amount \$46,503 would go to restore salaries and wages to the 1928-29 level and non-personnel items. The remainder would make up for the increase in receipts, anticipated by the budget commission from tuition increases.

"We would violate not only the spirit of the state institution, but we would violate the spirit of the people if we began to make wealth more a test of admission than character, ability, and merit," Graham told the committee in taking a stand against tuition increases.

The university president said that 24 states in the Union grant free tuition to in-state students and that the constitution of North Carolina laid down a policy of free tuition.

According to a table shown by Dr. Graham, only nine state-supported universities now charge in-state students a higher tuition fee than the University of North Carolina does. Under the proposed boosts, only Rutgers and the University of Maryland would require higher charges than the university at Chapel Hill.

The budget commission recommended that tuition for North Carolina residents at the university be raised from \$75 to \$125 a year, at N. C. State from \$80 to \$125 a year and at Woman's College from \$50 to \$100 a year.

"We stand high in tuition and we stand somewhat high in fees already," continued Dr. Graham, pointing to charts on charges at the state-supported universities of this country.

A bill to revise North Carolina's pension laws

—so as to reduce the counties' burden of payments to indigent old persons and dependent children, was introduced Monday night in the House of Representatives in Raleigh.

Sponsored by Tompkins, of Jackson, the measure also specifies that the county tax rates to finance the social security program shall be more uniform.

The bill provides that social security payments shall be "distributed to counties according to the needs therein, in conformity to the rules and regulations adopted by the state board of allotments and appeals, producing as far as practicable a just and fair distribution thereof."

It also would limit the ad valorem social security tax in any county to not more than 10 cents per \$100 of valuation, and would provide that virtually all state receipts from the intangible tax be transferred to a social security equalizing fund.

Another measure, introduced in the house by McBryde, of Cumberland, and Seeley, of Cartaret, would set the state's highway speed limit at 55 miles an hour. At present, there is no limit in North Carolina, but a speed of more than 45 miles an hour is considered evidence of reckless driving, in the event of an accident.

Representatives Everett and Hollomon, of Halifax, sent forward a measure to pay state employees semimonthly, instead of monthly.