

Current Events in Review

By Edward W. Pickard

74th Congress Adjourns After a Long Session

THE Seventy-fourth congress adjourned after a session lasting five and a half months during which it appropriated nearly \$10,000,000 and was faced by some unexpected legislative complications.

In the closing hours the emergency tax bill which is expected to produce \$800,000,000 in revenue was passed. Supreme court invalidation of the AAA and Guffey coal bills and the passage of the cash soldiers' bonus over the President's veto upset the budget plans and made such a bill necessary.

Although it was passed by the house, the amended Guffey coal bill designed to remove the objections of the Supreme court failed of passage in the senate. Similarly, the Wagner slum housing bill, which had passed the senate, failed in the house.

Larger than normal appropriations for governmental activities were passed. The bonus, farm payments, relief and the greatest national defense program in peace time history helped swell the total.

Funds for continuing the present relief program were voted; the public works revolving fund was amended to permit more heavy construction projects. But congress failed to approve the Florida ship canal and Passamaquoddy tide dam.

Invalidation of the AAA brought a revised and expanded soil conservation and domestic allotment act; the rural electrification administration and electric farm and home authority were both placed on a permanent basis; the Commodity Credit corporation was expanded; two flood control bills were passed. Labor received attention through the Walsh-Healy bill dealing with working conditions on government contracts. A compromise ship subsidy bill was rushed through in the closing hours. Financial legislation included expansion of the jurisdiction of SEC. Important among business legislation was the Patman bill amending the Clayton anti-trust act regarding price discrimination.

A number of important bills failed of enactment. Among these were the Pettigill long and short hauls bill, stockyard regulation, Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage bill, and bills on the 90-hour week, extension of the railroad co-ordinator's tenure, anti-war profits, alien deportation, enlargement of the federal trade commission's power and treasury agency service.

Smith Asks Roosevelt "Be Put Aside"

CALLING upon the delegates to the Democratic national convention to "put aside Franklin D. Roosevelt" and to nominate "some genuine Democrat" for President, former Gov. Alfred E. Smith and four other anti-administration Democrats charged the New Deal with failure.

The demand came in the form of a telegram and was signed by Smith, Balinbridge Colby, secretary of state under President Wilson, James A. Reed, former senator from Missouri, Joseph B. Ely, former governor of Massachusetts, and Daniel F. Cohalan, former justice of the Supreme court of New York.

Former Governor Smith and his colleagues indicated that they will not support President Roosevelt in the forthcoming Presidential campaign, fulfilling Smith's previous threat to "take a walk."

Pro-Roosevelt delegates from every section of the country prepared for a concerted attack upon the "bolters."

Gov. Herbert Lehman of New York turned his back upon Mr. Smith and predicted President Roosevelt would carry New York by a substantial majority in November. He declared:

"I have read the statement. I am confident that the views expressed by the five signers of statement represent the feelings of only a handful of Democrats."

Death Takes von Buelow Noted German Diplomat

THE death of Bernhard W. von Buelow, secretary of state for foreign affairs in the Hitler cabinet, removed one of the most skilled of Europe's diplomats. Von Buelow, who was fifty-one, was an expert on the League of Nations and gave his country valuable counsel when Germany began to consider rejoining the league. He was noted as a studious and hard-working official, with a vast amount of detailed information always readily available.

A "blueblood" of the German nobility, the diplomat was a nephew of the late Prince Bernhard von Buelow, imperial chancellor. He was one of the first of the German nobles to associate himself with the republican regime after the collapse of the empire in 1918.

Although different in background from Hitler, he nevertheless enjoyed the chancellor's confidence.

His diplomatic circles it was regarded as likely that Dr. Hans Dieckhoff, chief of the political department of the foreign office, will succeed Buelow as secretary of state.

In Russia, Maxim Gorky, early foe of the czars who became a hero of the Soviet regime and its outstanding writer, died of influenza at the age of sixty-eight. Although not a member of the Communist party, Gorky had a prominent position in Soviet life and was a former member of the central executive committee. Moscow honored him with a public funeral and interment in the Kremlin in a niche facing Lenin's tomb.

Rep. Lemke Will Be Presidential Candidate

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM LEMKE of North Dakota announced that he would run for the Presidency as the candidate of a new political group known as the Union party.

Father Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit priest, is the leading sponsor of Lemke's candidacy. Thomas Charles O'Brien of Boston will be the vice-presidential candidate on the ticket, it was announced.

Mr. Lemke made public a 15-point platform embodying demands for financing of farm mortgages, old age security, a living wage for all workers, limitation on individual incomes, the establishment of a central bank, the issuance by congress of all currency and its regulation of the value of all the money.

Plans were made for the new party to hold a national convention some time during August in Cleveland.

Mr. Lemke said the Union party has the support of farm unions, labor, the National Union for Social Justice established by Father Coughlin, the Townsend old age pension movement and "all other liberals who have been driven from the old parties."

Packers Seek Recovery of All Processing Taxes

A BATTLE to recover all the processing taxes paid to the government under the invalidated AAA was undertaken by the "big four" of the packing industry—Swift and Company, Armour and Company, Wilson and Company and the Cudahy Packing company.

Having won back \$45,000,000 when the AAA was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme court the packing industry has decided to attempt to recover from the government more than \$200,000,000 paid before injunctions against the tax were granted and subsequent payments impounded.

The meat packing industry as a whole paid a total of \$271,000,000 in processing taxes from the inception of the AAA. The packers are basing their claims for recovery on the ground that as the Supreme court ruled the processing taxes invalid, payments made in accordance with that law were illegally collected and should be returned. It was reported that smaller packing companies were considering action to recover their tax payments, but have waited until the major units in the industry instituted their proceedings.

The total in tax recoveries sought by the four big Chicago companies is approximately \$100,000,000.

U. S. Revokes Sanctions Imposed on Italy

FOLLOWING the lead of Great Britain, the United States formally revoked all sanctions imposed against Italy during the recent Italo-Ethiopian conflict. A proclamation by President Roosevelt declared all previous communications dealing with the sale of munitions of war, loans and travel by Americans on Italian ships was revoked.

Although the sanctions were against both Italy and Ethiopia, in practical application they were used only against Italy, since the United States did not supply the African nation with any war materials and the empire of Haile Selassie had no ships of its own.

The French cabinet agreed to abide by any action which the League of Nations may take in cancelling sanctions against Italy.

The British government's decision to abandon sanctions was defended in an address by Prime Minister Baldwin as the only alternative which would prevent a suicidal war plunging westerly civilization into "barbarous anarchy."

It was reported that Great Britain was considering presentation of a mutual assistance naval pact in the Mediterranean, providing for Italy's participation. Should such a step be taken, it would extend a series of such pacts which were concluded between Britain and France, Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey against Italy at the time sanctions were imposed on Il Duce.

It was believed that Japan would seek liberation from the clause of the Lausanne agreement by which she, with Great Britain, France and Italy, guaranteed freedom of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmora and the Bosphorus.

Russia was expected to urge a ban on the passage of warships to the Black sea, while demanding the right of Soviet fighting vessels and submarines to come into the Mediterranean, in the event she engaged in war.

The institute's figures showed that the price level during the first four months was 23 per cent lower than a year ago, but the quantity marketed showed an increase of 18.1 per cent.



Rep. Lemke

Senator Fletcher of Florida Passes Away

DEATH "in the harness" came to Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, dean of the senate, who had represented Florida in the upper house for the last quarter of a century.

He died suddenly at his home in Washington. Senator Fletcher, a strong supporter of the Roosevelt administration although he was considered a conservative, was chairman of the banking and currency committee which bore the brunt of the task involved in the currency reform legislation and the banking act of 1933.

President Roosevelt, in a statement eulogizing the senator, said "the country has lost an able and conscientious servant in the death of Senator Fletcher." He declared the Floridian "was ever actuated by motives of high patriotism and unselfish devotion to the public welfare."

The death of Senator Fletcher followed closely the passing of Senator Park Trammell of Florida and the death of Speaker Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee.

Senator Fletcher was born in Sumter county, Georgia, January 6, 1859. He was graduated from Vanderbilt university in 1880 and began the practice of law in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1881. He was elected to the United States senate in 1908 and had been renominated and re-elected in each subsequent term.

Republicans Make Plans for Coming Campaign

IN TOPEKA, Kan., Gov. Alfred M. Landon, Republican nominee for the Presidency, met Col. Frank Knox, Vice Presidential nominee, and Chairman John Hamilton and members of the executive committee of the Republican national committee to make plans for the coming campaign.

Speaking itineraries for Governor Landon and Colonel Knox were discussed as well as other campaign strategy.

Youth is definitely represented in the reorganized personnel of the executive committee which will chart the Republican course. Hamilton, the new chairman, is forty-four. The youngest member, Robert P. Burroughs of Manchester, N. H., is thirty-six. Seven new members attended the meeting, including Burroughs; Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., North Attleboro, Mass.; Horace Sayre, Ardmore, Okla.; Mrs. John Wyeth, St. Joseph, Mo.; Ezra Whitla, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and Earl Warren, Oakland, Calif. Members returned to the committee are: Charles D. Hilles, New York; Harrison E. Spangler, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; R. B. Creager, Brownsville, Texas; Mrs. Bertha Baur, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Paul Fitzsimmons, Newport, R. I.; Walter S. Hallahan, Charleston, W. Va.; and George Ball, Muncie, Ind.

In the reorganization of the committee, Hamilton traded posts with Henry P. Fletcher, who took over the job of counsel for the committee. C. B. Goodspeed of Chicago succeeded George F. Getz as treasurer. The other committee officers include four vice chairmen: Ralph E. Williams, Oregon; J. Henry Roraback, Connecticut; Mrs. John E. Hillman, Colorado; and Mrs. James Worthington, Pennsylvania.

Far-East Situation Reaches Grave Crisis

THE situation in the Far East reached a graver crisis. Friction between Japan and China became more intense when it was reported that a Chinese customs cruiser had fired upon a Japanese ship, off the harbor of Chikou, Hopen province.

At the same time foreign residents of Peiping were amazed at the spectacle of 3,000 Japanese troops in full war regalia parading through the legation quarter. While Japanese officers declined to explain the unprecedented influx of troops, observers declared that the soldiers were from nearby Tunghow and Fengtai.

International Conference on Mediterranean Problems

A GENERAL review of the naval and military problems in the Mediterranean loomed as the result of Turkey's request to fortify the Dardanelles. Meeting in Montreux, Switzerland, delegates from Great Britain, France, Italy, Turkey, Japan, Greece and Yugoslavia indicated they would lay before an international conference the objectives in which their nations are interested.

It was reported that Great Britain was considering presentation of a mutual assistance naval pact in the Mediterranean, providing for Italy's participation. Should such a step be taken, it would extend a series of such pacts which were concluded between Britain and France, Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey against Italy at the time sanctions were imposed on Il Duce.

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BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Land Ho!
The Changing Ocean
Safety and Speed
Much for Science

On Board Steamship Normandie.—Four nights from New York and the ship is at Southampton. The Isle of Wight is on your right. Passengers are landing for England. On your left is France, across the water.

You land thereafter. On old crossings passengers watched eagerly for the first land. Now crossing and landing are about as exciting as a trip by rail from Chicago to Lake Forest, or from Wall street to Forty-second street by subway. You are in Europe before you realize that you have started.

The poetry of travel has departed with fast ships on the ocean and automobiles instead of camels on the desert.

No matter how often you cross this Atlantic ocean, or the North American continent, the crossing is always different and interesting. The ocean, like the wide plains, is forever changing.

Two days ago the waves looked like playthings for children. Last night the ocean changed its mind and rolled the waves up high with a shrieking wind. The steward said, "We shall have to fasten the arm chairs tomorrow," but the heavy ship paid no attention to the waves. The ocean changed its mind again and calmed down.

A speedometer telling how fast the ship moves is operated by a mechanism below the keel that records the speed of the rushing water. Burning oil produces steam; steam power is converted into electric power, and that drives the ship. The captain always knows how deep the ocean is beneath him; an electric contrivance sends a sound wave down through the water to the bottom, which sends back an echo.

Knowing the speed at which sound travels through water, it is easy to calculate the depth. The machine does it for you. It is a feeble sound—one hundred and sixty thousand vibrations to the second. No human ear could pick it up, but the machine records it. Twenty-five thousand vibrations per second is the limit of your ear, and that is not bad for a primitive contrivance like a human being.

Newton D. Baker, secretary of war in the "big" war, tells graduating students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology it is their duty to "carry science into politics." Scientists, Mr. Baker thought, must seek for "the solution of world problems when the great international crisis comes, as it surely will come."

A sufficient "great crisis" seems to be here now, with many countries wanting to fight each other, different classes already fighting each other, and in this richest country in the world—ten million human beings living practically on charity.

If that is not a real crisis, few would care to see one.

George Bernard Shaw, not yet eighty, says, "I must give up public speaking, I am too old." That surprises you from a Celt and an Irishman. At eighty many men have been vigorous in thought and body; for instance, Pope Leo, Von Moltke, Gladstone, Michelangelo.

Not one of those, however, suffered from handicaps that have aged George Bernard Shaw prematurely; he is a vegetarian and a teetotaler. Youth and strength reside in a saddle of four-year-old mutton and good, light claret, greatly diluted with water.

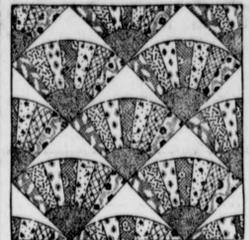
In spite of England's pitifully weak and belated backdown on sanctions, due to London's fear of Mussolini's air fleet; a backdown denounced as cowardice by Lloyd George, Britain, for face-saving purposes, will maintain a great fleet in the Mediterranean. Mussolini will welcome such convenient air and submarine targets near home as a sort of British hostages to fortune.

M. Aurli announces that France will not devalue the franc any further. It has already been reduced by 80 per cent, as though our dollar had been knocked down to twenty cents instead of fifty-nine cents. Prime Minister Blum knows that it does not pay to scare capital out of its wits, something that our best Washington minds have still to learn. The French workmen will have their forty-hour week and the strikes are about over. The French, a homogeneous people, realize that if they destroy France they will not have much left.

Returning to the real American interest, the defeat of Joe Louis, young gentlemen and old will observe that it is most important in all undertakings not to be afraid, worn out or cowardly. Fighters that Louis had encountered saw before them "an invincible conqueror of men."

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