Current Events in Review

By Edward W. Pickard

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Reserve Board Supports Government Issues

PRICES of government bonds have been declining in a disturbing manner, and the administration decided to do something to check the slump. The open market committee of the federal reserve system discussed the matter all one day, and next day President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and Chairman Eccles of the reserve board held a long conference. The result was this announcement:

Secretary Morgenthau

"With a view (1) to exerting its influence toward orderly conditions in the money market and (2) to facilitating the orderly adjustment of member banks to the increased reserve requirements effective May 1, 1937, the open market committee of the federal reserve system is prepared to make open market purchases of government securities for the account of federal reserve banks in such amounts and at such times as may be desirable."

Purchase of government securities in the open market by the federal reserve banks—they now own $2,430,000,000 of government bills, notes and bonds—will create reserves for the member banks, and thus make it easier for them to meet the May 1 banking reserve increase, without reducing their holding of government securities. This should make money easier.

The security and commodity markets were given a rather severe jolt by the President when he told the correspondents that prices of durable goods, especially steel and copper, were too high and that it was time for a shift in federal expenditure from them so as to spread the national income more evenly. He said that instead of spending federal funds on steel bridges, huge cement dams and similar permanent projects, government relief spending should be diverted as far as possible to dredging, construction of earth dams, and other projects which do not draw on durable goods.

Florida Ship Canal Bobs Up Again

THAT Florida ship canal project, which would cut the state in two, has come to the fore again and probably will have to be fought out once more in congress. Two reports on the matter have just been filed. One, from Maj. Gen. Edward M. Markham, chief of engineers of the army, says the federal government would be justified in completing the project at a cost of $197,921,000. The other, from the river and harbor board, says the canal is economically unsound.

Maj. Gen. Markham

Neither report was made public at once, but the War department said General Markham recommended an Atlantic-Gulf waterway 33 feet deep and 400 feet wide.

The canal was started once by President Roosevelt, but in 1936 congress failed to appropriate additional money and work was stopped. The fight in congress against the funds was led by Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg who contended the giant seaway was unjustified economically.

Trial Without Jury Upheld by High Court

IN A decision denying the right of trial by jury in criminal cases where the maximum punishment is not more than three months in prison, the Supreme court divided 7 to 2, with two justices whom the New Dealers most frequently denounce by name coming to the defense of human liberties.

Justice James Clark McReynolds, who has held against the New Deal in all except two important cases, wrote the dissenting opinion in the jury trial case, and Justice Pierce Butler, author of the opinion invalidating New York state's minimum wage act last year, concurred with him. The dissenting opinion declared that "constitutional guarantees ought not to be subordinated to convenience, nor denied upon questionable precedents or uncertain reasoning."

Miners' Strike Ends and Wage Scale Is Signed

BITUMINOUS coal miners were on strike only one day, for the new wage scale, providing an $85,000,000 increase of pay for the 400,000 men, was signed by representatives of the operators and the United Mine Workers of America. Of course the consumer will have to pay for this wage boost. Charles O'Neill, president of the United Eastern Coal Sales corporation and chairman of the operators' delegation at the conference, said the cost of bituminous coal at the mine would go up at least 25 cents a ton.

The miners won a raise of 50 cents a day, but lost their demand for a 30-hour week. The 35-hour week, or 7 hours a day and 5 days a week, which was in effect under the old contract, will remain. Also the men failed to get two weeks' vacation with pay and a guaranty of 200 days of work a year.

The strike in the Ford plant in Kansas City came to an end and the members of the United Automobile Workers were boasting of gaining a victory over the imperturbable Henry. But the advantage they won was slight and temporary, and the battle with Ford is yet to be fought.

Three Cornered Contest Coming in Oil Fields

THERE is going to be a lively three-cornered struggle in the southwestern oil fields. The C. I. O., whose plans in that direction were mentioned in this column not long ago, has begun the campaign to organize the workers in the Texas field. Harvey C. Fremming of Washington, president of the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers and close friend of John Lewis, is in charge of the operations. A rival movement for members and prestige will be started in a few days by the A. F. of L.

Gov. James V. Allred of Texas has given notice that he will use "every resource" against sit-down strikes, which he declares are unlawful and un-American. He added:

"My investigation convinces me that sit-down strike organizers have invaded Texas. Sit-down methods do not represent the desires of an overwhelming majority of organized labor in this state."

Radicals Stage Sit-Down in Minnesota Senate

NEARLY 1,000 Farmer-Labor zealots, apparently inspired by pointed remarks of Gov. Elmer A. Benson, began a sit-down siege in the Minnesota state house in an effort to force the state legislators to enact Gov. Benson's program to soak the rich and petition congress to pack the Supreme court of the United States.

They chose the senate chamber for their legislative demonstration. They chose this chamber because the senate, conservative in its economic and political makeup, successfully has balked the governor's radical program. The house has been more pliant.

In their sitdown siege the lobbyists had the apparent blessing, if not the indirect encouragement, of Governor Benson.

Army Day Marks America's Entry Into the War

PROCLAIMED by the President, congress and all governors, Army day was celebrated throughout the nation on April 6, the twentieth anniversary of America's entrance into the World war.

The keynote of Army day, according to Rear Admiral Reginald R. Belknap, U. S. N. retired, general chairman of the day, is "Peace through preparedness."

"We who have seen the terrible destruction wrought by war want to do all in our power to avoid another war," he said. "The best way to do this, we believe, is by having a strong, well-trained, well-equipped army and navy. So strengthened, an aggressor nation will think twice before trying to draw us into war."

The best way to achieve this preparedness, he added, is by carrying out the provisions of the National Defense act of 1920, in appropriations, personnel, material and training. He also urged continuing the navy at full treaty strength, fully manned, actively trained and with an adequate trained reserve.

Norris Still Plans for National Power Authority

SENATOR GEORGE NORRIS of Nebraska is intent on his plan for the creation of a national power authority similar to the Tennessee Valley authority, and he intends to introduce a bill for this during the present session of congress. This he announced after conferring with the President, and he intimated the idea was approved by Mr. Roosevelt. He has experts at work investigating its feasibility and mapping out the details.

Sen. Norris

"All rivers of the United States should be controlled by the nation if their nature is subject to it by national flood control policy," the senator said. "Whenever the river will develop power, we should take advantage of it. I've always regarded power as a subsidiary or by-product of flood control."

Franco Combats Revolt in Fascist Army

GENERAL FRANCO'S revolution in Spain, already checked by serious defeats on both the northern and the southern fronts, was further embarrassed by spreading revolt among the Fascist troops. His agents uncovered the plot and numerous arrests were speedily followed by numerous executions by firing squads. The mutiny first broke out in Spanish Morocco, and Franco himself hurried there by plane. There were persistent reports that 1,000 Italian soldiers had been landed at Ceuta and were being used to crush the mutiny. This was denied by the Fascist high commissioner of Morocco.

Gen. Franco

More than 100 high-ranking officers, most of them belonging to the air force, were said to have been implicated in the plot which was seemingly well laid in all parts of Spanish Morocco and the southern tip of European Spain.

Government troops were said to be pushing back toward Cordoba the Fascist forces which were trying to break through for capture of the rich coal and mineral territory about Pozoblanco. The insurgent army there, alleged to include 10,000 Italians and Germans, was in danger of being surrounded and annihilated.

Great Britain and France officially warned Franco that they would no longer tolerate the stopping and searching of British and French merchant vessels by his warships.

President Discusses the Labor Situation

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT discussed the labor situation with Secretary Perkins and Sidney Hillman, chief organizer of the C. I. O. drive to unionize the textile workers. Hillman told him he was hopeful the problems of the textile industry could be settled by co-operation and arbitration, and it was reported that he promised the textile workers would not attempt to use the sit-down strike.

Senator Wagner of New York delivered an address in the senate on the sit-down strike situation, charging that the balme of it rested on a few giant corporations which, he said, have "hamstrung" the labor relations board by invoking injunctions in the courts and "who have openly banded together to defy" the labor relations law.

Deriding the call for new federal legislation to meet the crisis, Senator Wagner declared that "the lack of power in the federal government to enforce the labor relations act and not any weakness in existing law is the root cause for the present economic warfare."

Representative Martin Dies of Texas appeared before the house rules committee and urged action on his resolution for a congressional investigation of the strike situation. He again called upon the President to intervene and pointed to section 5299 of the revised United States statutes as giving the chief executive authority to take action in the event of such an occurrence as the Chrysler strike.

The continued silence of the President on the issue is "ominous," Representative Charles L. Gifford of Massachusetts told the house. He warned the President against the rise to power of John L. Lewis.

Negotiations for settlement of the General Motors strike were progressing slowly, and officials of the corporation said that 10,100 employees were idle in four plants because of strikes in Pontiac and Flint, Mich.

Ludendorff Takes Part in War on Religion

GEN. ERICH LUDENDORFF, who was German quartermaster-general during the World war, is head of the "German god" movement and plans to take an active part in the struggle between the Nazis and the church, directing his attacks especially at the old religious orders. In the current number of his magazine, At the Holy Source of German Force, he declares that Hitler has agreed to give Ludendorff's movement a recognized status.

The general, in a statement framed like an army order, told his lieutenants that the principle at stake is "the welding together of the people in a totalitarian state."

Meat Imports Reported to Be Increasing

ACCORDING to a survey made for the Corn Belt Farm Dailies, an increasing share of domestic meat requirements is coming from European countries and Canada, at the expense of American live stock producers.

Importations of pork from Poland early in March were running at record high levels, while increased shipments were unloaded at New York from Denmark, Lithuania, Italy, Hungary, Holland, Germany, Estonia, Czechoslovakia, Canada, and Argentina. The United States in normal times supplies Europe with meat, the farm papers pointed out.

"It must be obvious that through restricted production and reciprocal tariff agreements we have adopted policies in this country that have opened our doors to the importation of meats in substantial volume," the survey commented.

Household Questions

A Mirror Brightens — Many housekeepers have found that a hanging mirror will often brighten up a dark corner.

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Use Baking Sheets — Baking powder biscuits and cookies rise better and brown more evenly on baking sheets than they do in pans.

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Removing Tea Stains—Tea and coffee stains can sometimes be removed from china cups by rubbing them with a damp cloth dipped in baking soda.

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A Supper Special—One cup leftover cooked vegetables, four eggs, half-teaspoonful salt, dash of pepper, half-cup grated cheese. Break the eggs and beat the yolks and whites together. Stir in the vegetables. Add pepper and salt. Put in greased baking dish. Cover with grated cheese and bake in hot oven ten minutes.

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Shining Saucepans—Aluminum saucepans that have become discolored inside can be made to look like new by boiling in them water to which a tablespoonful of vinegar and some apple parings or lemon rinds have been added.

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Cleaning Paintwork — Glossy paintwork should never be washed with soap and water, as it usually leaves a smeary surface. A teaspoonful of turpentine in warm water will make the cleaning a simple matter and will not scratch the paint.

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To Remove a Tight Lid—Tie a piece of string round the tin two or three times, just below the lid; then push a pencil between the string and the tin, twist the pencil over, and the resulting pressure will release the lid.

WNU Service.

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