

# CURRENT EVENTS IN REVIEW

By Edward W. Pickard

Western Newspaper Union

## Townsend Plan Inquiry Attracts Attention

WHILE waiting for instructions as to what to do in the matter of taxation, the members of the house—and many others—directed their attention to the investigation of the activities of the Townsend pension plan promoters. Speaker Byrnes appointed on the probing committee of eight two avowed Townsendites—John H. Tolan, Democrat, and Samuel L. Collins, Republican, both from California. The chairman is J. Jasper Bell of Missouri, Democrat, author of the resolution for the investigation. It was understood that Mr. Bell had already gathered a mass of information to substantiate the charge that the Townsend plan has become a huge racket. The leaders of both parties in congress have been getting rather nervous over the growth of the Townsend movement and are glad to see it attacked; but some impartial observers call attention to the fact that the way the committee is going after it smacks of unconstitutional abridgment of the right to petition.



J. Jasper Bell

It was expected that one of the first questions to be considered by the committee would be the salaries received by Dr. Francis E. Townsend, author of the scheme, and R. E. Clements, former California real estate operator, co-founder and general manager. Clements has revealed to newspaper reporters that he and Doctor Townsend receive salaries of \$100 a week each from OARP—the old age revolving pension organization—and \$50 a week each from the Townsend national weekly, which claims a circulation of 250,000. It has been charged on the floor of the house that this newspaper, privately owned by Townsend and Clements, has a reserve fund of at least \$200,000.

Congressman John Steven McGroarty, California's "poet laureate," says the Townsendites will control the house of representatives at the next session, and adds: "They have built up the largest political organization in the history of America, with 10 million enrolled members. If you include those who have signed petitions favoring the Townsend plan the number is increased to 30 million. By November it will be twice this large. This investigation will vastly strengthen the Townsend movement and anybody that knows anything knows that. The American people like fair play and they know that this investigation is just dirty politics."

## Gen. Hagood Punished for New Deal Criticism

MAJ. GEN. JOHNSON HAGOOD recently suggested to the house appropriations subcommittee that congress take advantage of what he termed "WPA stage money" and use it to improve housing at army posts. Within a few days came this order signed by Gen. Malin Craig, chief of staff, by order of the secretary of war:

"By order of the President, Maj. Gen. Johnson Hagood, United States army, is relieved from assignment to the command of the Eighth Corps area and further duty at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Maj. Gen. Hagood will proceed to his home and await orders. The travel directed is necessary in the military service."

## Two Prominent Men Are Claimed by Death

DEATH took from the scene two men prominent in national life—Albert Cabell Ritchie, governor of Maryland for four terms, and Henry Latrobe Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy and distant cousin of the President. Mr. Ritchie was a leader among conservative Democrats, from the start a determined foe of national prohibition, and in 1932 a candidate for the Presidential nomination by his party. Though beaten out by F. D. Roosevelt, he had the satisfaction of seeing his repeal plank put into the Democratic platform. Of late he had been an outspoken critic of the New Deal policies, for he was a champion of state rights.

Henry L. Roosevelt was the fifth member of his family to serve as assistant secretary of the navy, and in recent months he had played an increasingly important part in the affairs of the department, acting as secretary during the illness of Secretary Swanson. He was a student in the naval academy class of 1909, but left before graduation to become a second lieutenant in the marine corps, in which service he rose to the rank of colonel. He was buried in Arlington National cemetery with full military rites after funeral ceremonies that were attended by President Roosevelt and many other high officials.



A. C. Ritchie

## Week-End Activities of President Roosevelt

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT had a busy week-end. First he went to Philadelphia and received from Temple university the honorary degree of doctor of jurisprudence. He delivered an address in the course of which he said: "True education depends upon freedom in the pursuit of truth. No group and no government can properly prescribe precisely what should constitute the body of knowledge with which true education is concerned. The truth is found when men are free to pursue it. "It is this belief in the freedom of the mind, written into our fundamental law and observed in our every day dealings with the problems of life, that distinguishes us as a nation." Next the President hurried up to Cambridge, Mass., to see his son John initiated into the old aristocratic Fly club of Harvard. Returning to Hyde Park, Mr. Roosevelt delivered a radio address marking brotherhood day of the national conference of Christians and Jews, and he called on all believing Americans to unite against the wave of irreligion that challenges all faiths.

## Ship Subsidy Measure Seems to Be Discarded

DEVELOPMENTS in Washington lead to the belief that the Copeland ship subsidy bill has been abandoned. Word came from the White House that the President, although he initiated the principles of the measure, would not press for its passage; and Senator Royal S. Copeland, whose commerce committee approved the bill which was a part of the administration program, is so irritated that he may drop it. Senator Guffey of Pennsylvania has prepared a rival measure, not yet introduced, and Senator Black of Alabama is opposed to the Copeland bill.

Shipping interests have given warning that new construction for foreign trade will continue to be paralyzed by uncertainty and lead to additional insistence by the Navy department on the building of its own auxiliaries.

## New Farm Relief Bill Sent to Conference

DIFFERENCES between the house and senate versions of the new farm relief measure were utterly irreconcilable, if you could take the work of the conferees of both bodies to whom the bill was sent. Nevertheless, it was expected the disputes would all be adjusted within a few days and the measure sent to the White House. Senator Smith, chairman of the senate agriculture committee, voiced indignant opposition to a house amendment providing that tenant farmers and sharecroppers shall be included in cash benefits paid landowners for conserving soil and thus controlling production.

## Eden Warns That Another World War Impends

CAAPT. ANTHONY EDEN, British foreign minister, stood up in the house of commons and warned the world that recurrence of the World war was imminent and in his opinion could not be averted except by a system of collective security "embracing all nations in an authority which is unchallenged and unchallengeable." Eden impressed upon members of the parliament the difference between a policy of collective security and one of encirclement, such as the "ring of steel" which Germany complains is being forged about her by France. "The British government will have no lot or part in encirclement," Eden said.

Earlier in his speech the minister announced that the sanctions already imposed upon Italy by members of the League of Nations are achieving their purpose of hastening the cessation of war between Italy and Ethiopia. He failed to satisfy the opposition on the question of an oil embargo against Italy by sidestepping a definite commitment on such a boycott.

## Puerto Rico Slays May Start Reforms

POLITICAL conditions in Puerto Rico, notoriously unsatisfactory, may be rectified as a result of the assassination in San Juan of E. Francis Riggs, chief of the island police, and a district police chief. Riggs, a former United States army colonel, was shot by two Nationalists; two hours later District Police Chief Francisco Velez N. Ortiz attempted to put down a Nationalist riot at a cafe in the central town of Utuado and was killed. The assassins of Riggs were caught and admitted the killing, saying it was in revenge for the Rio Pedras "massacre" in which police killed four Nationalists last November. While being questioned, the murderers, the police said, reached for guns and were shot to death.

## Neutrality Act Extended for Another Year

BOTH house and senate passed the resolution extending for one year the existing embargo on arms, ammunition, and implements of war, and prohibiting loans and credits to belligerents. Senator Nye was out of the city when the senate assembled, an hour earlier than usual, to act on the measure. Hearing what was going on, he flew from Minneapolis through a storm and arrived five minutes before the final vote but too late to put through any of his proposed amendments.

## SEC Head Is Worried by Stock Speculation

JAMES M. LANDIS, chairman of the securities and exchange commission, speaking at an alumni meeting at Princeton university, expressed great concern over increased stock market speculation, and set forth three methods, whereby the government might curb it. These are: Control of banks and brokerage credit, anti-manipulation laws, and a program to educate the public against unwise stock purchases.



J. M. Landis

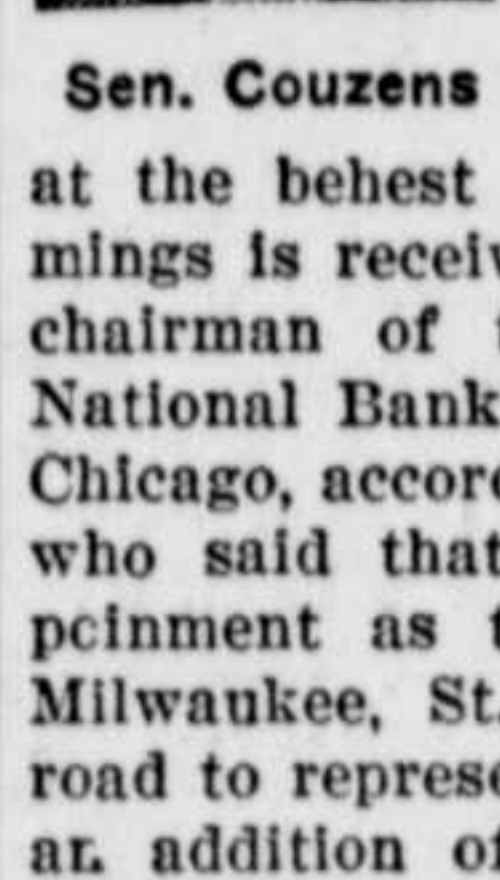
"One sees with concern," Landis said, "the efforts of traders to outguess events, like court decisions, and the increasing tendency subtly generated to induce people to pour their savings into the market with heedlessness as before. "Still too prevalent, as our monthly reports show, is the tendency of officers and directors to toy with the stock of their corporations at the expense of their true responsibility of functioning as executives."

## Gen. "Billy" Mitchell Dead of Heart Attack

ONE of the most spectacular and dynamic figures in American life of today passed with the death of Brig. Gen. William Mitchell in a New York hospital. He succumbed to a heart attack and influenza at the age of fifty-seven years. "Billy," as he was known to army men, was commander in chief of the American air forces in France during the World war and was decorated by six governments. Afterward, while yet in the regular service, he severely criticized the government's air preparedness policy and was court-martialed and suspended.

## Couzens Is Investigating W. J. Cummings' Salaries

POSITIONS and salaries of Walter J. Cummings, treasurer of the Democratic national committee, are to be investigated by Senator Couzens, Republican, Michigan, in connection with his inquiry into appointments made under operations of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in financing banks and railroads. The senator declared that Mr. Cummings is receiving more than \$90,000 annually as a result of appointments obtained at the behest of the RFC. Mr. Cummings is receiving \$75,000 annually as chairman of the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust company of Chicago, according to Senator Couzens, who said that Cummings' recent appointment as trustee of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad to represent RFC interests meant an addition of \$15,000 to his income annually.



Sen. Couzens

Mr. Cummings does not deny that he is receiving these salaries but contends they are justified.

## Philadelphia Paper Wins Criminal Libel Suit

THE Philadelphia Inquirer, accused of criminal libel by Attorney General Charles J. Margiotti of Pennsylvania, was acquitted of the charge by a jury of five housewives and seven men. The costs of the trial, however, were placed on the defendant. The basis of the attorney general's charge was an article printed by the Inquirer on September 29, 1935, during a mayoralty campaign in Philadelphia, which said Mr. Margiotti's law partners and associates were planning a "big tax grab." Acquired with the Inquirer were its editor, John Trevor Custie, and general manager, Charles A. Tyler, co-defendants.

## Interesting Selections of Convention Delegates

SELECTIONS of delegates to the national conventions, already being made in some states, are interesting, especially in the case of New York. Representative Hamilton Fish, supporting Borah for the Republican Presidential nomination, led a hot fight to displace some of the "old guard" and lost, the state committee naming these delegates at large:

Charles D. Hillis and Mrs. Ruth Pratt, members of the national committee; Mrs. Robert Low Bacon, vice chairman of the state committee; Representative Bertrand H. Snell, minority leader of the house; Representative James W. Wadsworth, former United States senator; Edward H. Butler, publisher of the Buffalo Evening News; John R. Crews, Brooklyn leader; Charles H. Griffiths, Westchester county chairman.

Tammany made public the list of its delegates to the Democratic convention, and it is headed by Alfred E. Smith who will represent the tip of Manhattan and Staten island.

# Washington Digest

NATIONAL TOPICS INTERPRETED  
By William Bruckart

NATIONAL PRESS BLDG., WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington.—Congress, again, has given a fine illustration of how a horse goes up to the jump, then falls to take it. It faltered on the neutrality question. True, congress has re-enacted for another year the neutrality law that was put through under pressure a year ago but it did not have the necessary courage to go into that question and work out anything of a permanent character. The result, I am convinced, is that as soon as there is any excuse whatsoever, neutrality for the United States will be nothing but a shell.

I do not know, nor do I believe anybody can tell at this juncture whether the United States ought to embark on a rigid policy of isolation from affairs of the world but that is a question that is subordinate at this moment. The point is that congress, a year ago, made a great show of neutrality and put on a second stage performance only lately with the same theme song. Since it has backed away from the real issue it begins to appear that the original action was but hollow mockery; that the politicians moved a year ago with the thought in mind that they would not have to go on record so soon and that they could make the country feel it had elected statesmen. But, instead, their course has led them to the point where a decision had to be made—and they have dodged it.

One of the reasons why this neutrality question has become so important is the combination of circumstances that has developed in Europe. Those maneuvers have put our congress on the spot and it, like so many previous times, again has wavered.

It is difficult to forecast what is going to happen in Europe but there are certain signs and portents that may not be ignored. History, as we all know, has a habit of repeating itself and it promises to repeat itself in a hurry this time.

Let us look at the European picture. On the one hand we have an alignment of France and England and probably Russia. On the other, we see Hitlerized Germany, Austria and Italy. There has been nothing more tangible thus far than a baring of fangs. That is, no overt acts have been committed but it always has been the case that the snarling and showing of teeth has provided the setting, the atmosphere, for more serious accusations. It may never happen that Germany or Austria or Italy will take steps which France or Russia could regard as an invasion of national rights and then, again, any one of them at any time may accidentally or deliberately do some minor thing that would provoke hostilities.

The chief significance of the reported alignment of Italy with Germany and Austria is that the Central Powers, as they stood in 1914, have been augmented by the strength of Fascist Italy. It means that the Germany of 1914 has access to the North sea and the Mediterranean instead of just the North sea as occurred 20 years ago.

Coupled with that fact is the condition of a better defense for the Central Powers. If the agreement between Germany and Italy sticks, Germany has only the western and Russian fronts to maintain. It allows for a more compact military program because, instead of guarding against Italy on the south, Germany has an ally in that direction from which sources of supply can be established.

The fresh understandings worked out between France and England really are nothing more than a restoration of the arrangement that existed in the World war. The British, on the surface at least, have no compact with Russia but the French have a very definite agreement with the Soviet. It seems likely, therefore, that if hostilities should break out again, the British and the Soviet will have no difficulty in establishing a pact of mutual help.

As a sidelight, it seems to me that the new developments rather than the spotlight on the policies of Pierre Laval, former French foreign minister. M. Laval, it will be remembered, was ousted because of alleged pro-Italian policies. He sought for months to maintain friendship between France and Italy because he feared to do otherwise would result in alignment of Mussolini with Hitler. The bulk of the French parliament disagreed with him, however, and M. Laval was replaced by Foreign Minister Flaindin.

Now, Europe has seen the prompt desertion of Mussolini from the French side and his alignment with Hitler. So, the old picture has been put together again in Europe with the only change being the placement of Italy on the opposite side of the fence from where that nation stood in 1914. But let not the fact that the alignment differs only because of Italy's position be minimized. It is the most important of the combination that has developed in Europe.

The new situation, insofar as Great Britain is concerned, means that in case of a clash in the Mediterranean between the forces of Mussolini and the British there will be French support. It means, therefore, that Mussolini hardly dare disturb the concentration of British warships around the Suez. To do so would call down upon his head not only the shells of the British fleet but those of the French as well.

For the French, the revived understanding with Great Britain gives support against the slow flow of Hitler lava into the Rhineland which was demilitarized by the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the World war. The French are very touchy about the Rhineland and any attempt by Germany to fortify that territory makes French nerves very jittery. It is only natural, then, that the French look upon the agreement with London as an assurance of security in event Hitler should strike in the Rhineland.

Through it all, foreign advices indicate that British fists are gradually being doubled up against Hitler. This is true notwithstanding the fact that the new King Edward VIII is trying to be friendly with Germany. Foreign dispatches and private advices explain that there is a notable recurrence among the British of discussion recalling Germany atrocities in the World war. Slowly but surely throughout England the old hatred is arising.

On the northern frontier of Germany there is a new line of steel. The Communist state of Russia looks with disfavor upon the Nazi. My information is that it would take very little to provoke trouble there.

Altogether, the situation is one where, if a stone rolls down a mountain side, it could very easily become the detonation cap that would explode an ammunition dump.

With these facts in mind, one can understand readily the gravity of the relations between the United States and the rest of the world. One can understand as well why congress was rather anxious to avoid legislation of a broader scope in international affairs than already was operative. Yet, this does not alter the fact that if congress had no intention of establishing a real neutrality policy, it should not have embarked on a course designed to that end. It was either engaging in a game of fooling the public a year ago or it has just now demonstrated a most cowardly attitude.

Now, to get back home, we observe a maneuver by President Roosevelt to link North and South American nations into a new agreement. While none of our officials will say that this move has any connection with European development, I believe that observers generally are of the opinion that it has an important bearing on the situation beyond the Atlantic. It ought to be helpful in keeping the United States out of that mess or, if the future forces us into it and, in the meantime, there is a sound arrangement worked out between nations of the western hemisphere, their combined strength ought to put an end to European strife more quickly than if those European nations were left to fight it out alone. In other words, if Mr. Roosevelt can work out a binding agreement between all the nations of the western hemisphere, they can exert a tremendous influence.

This influence will carry further than on the homeland of any of the countries now involved in the European case of jitters. It possibly may extend to the point of becoming the balance of power in the settlement of colonial disputes between the central powers and the newly re-established allies. European interests in South America are important and if our South American neighbors have the important weight of the United States on their side, they will be in a position, for the first time, to force proper adjustment of colonial rights in the western hemisphere insofar as those colonial rights are concerned in settlement of European differences.

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**Saxony Densely Populated**  
One of the most densely populated regions in Germany is Saxony. The capital and seat of the government is Dresden, an old town situated on the banks of the Elbe. Another famous city of Saxony is Leipzig, known for its semiannual industrial fairs and as a renowned music center. It was in Leipzig that Bach wrote many of his masterpieces.

**Wood for Guitars**  
The sides and back of guitars are usually made of maple, ash, service or cherry, not infrequently adorned with inlays of rosewood or other woods. The sound board or face is of deal. Hard woods, such as ebony, beech or pear, are used for the neck and fingerboard. The bridge may be of ebony.

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**Forward and Upward**  
Anywhere, if it be forward . . . and if I should never return, perhaps my life will be as profitably spent as a forerunner as in any other way.—David Livingstone.

**Week's Supply of Postum Free**  
Read the offer made by the Postum Company in another part of this paper. They will send a full week's supply of health giving Postum free to anyone who writes for it.—Adv.

**Failings of Others**  
If we had no failings ourselves we should not take so much pleasure in finding out those of others.—Rochefoucauld.

# Find Out

From Your Doctor if the "Pain" Remedy You Take Is Safe.

Don't Entrust Your Own or Your Family's Well-Being to Unknown Preparations

BEFORE you take any preparation you don't know all about, for the relief of headaches; or the pains of rheumatism, neuritis or neuralgia, ask your doctor what he thinks about it—in comparison with Genuine Bayer Aspirin.

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## Bayer Aspirin

