

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Controversy With Secretary Wallace Forces Peek Into a New Job—Education Begun In CCC Camps—Sumner Welles Comes Home From Cuba.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

GEORGE PEEK'S controversy with Secretary of Agriculture Wallace and his assistant, Professor Tugwell, was put up to President Roosevelt and he speedily found the way to settle it. Mr. Peek was persuaded to resign as agricultural adjustment administrator and a new position much more to his liking was devised for him. He was called a special assistant to the President and named to head a temporary committee that will recommend permanent machinery for coordination of government efforts to expand foreign trade.

The committee also will include the members of the two departmental committees, the inter-departmental advisory board on reciprocal treaties, inter-departmental trade policy committees, and such other individuals as Peek may select.

In a formal statement the White House said: "The report of the committee and final action is expected within two weeks."

It continued: "George Peek, agricultural adjustment administrator, having completed the organization period of the AAA, is designated to head this committee as a special assistant to the President on American trade policy."

The new organization "to correlate the internal adjustment of production with such effective foreign purchasing power as may be developed by reciprocal tariffs, barter, and other international arrangements," will be headed by Mr. Peek when it is completed.

The administration expects to bring about modification of some most-favored nation treaties so as to make possible special treatment of liquor imports from countries agreeing to take more of this country's surplus farm products. This is not regarded as a great difficulty to Mr. Peek, as it is a favorite theme with him that trade amounts to "swapping my jack-knife for your marbles."

Trade, to him, whether on a domestic or international basis, is just what the word signifies, and he says that in its transaction "we sometimes have to sleep with people we don't like and sometimes with those we like."

He is quoted as remarking to an aide of the prospective liquor deals: "Sure, we'll take their liquor if we can pay them with butter and pork and other stuff."

Mr. Peek has long felt that agriculture has been neglected in its possibilities for export, contending that too much emphasis has been placed during the last 15 years on the exportation of industrial products.

CHESTER DAVIS, who was slated to succeed Mr. Peek as administrator of the AAA, has been in charge of the crop control section. Though long a close friend of Mr. Peek, he sided with Secretary Wallace and Assistant Secretary Tugwell in the dispute. However, he defended Mr. Peek against assertions that the latter's presence in the administration had delayed prosecution of the crop control program. He pointed to the control plans for wheat, cotton, hogs, tobacco and other commodities placed in operation, and said:

"The record of the past six months would have been impossible without the continued co-operation of Mr. Peek. It is absolutely untrue that he obstructed progress."

With Mr. Peek moved to a new post, officials associated with him were considering plans for extensive revision of the methods of handling marketing agreements in the AAA. It has been virtually decided to scrap the two main divisions, crop control and processing and marketing.

AGRICULTURAL leaders from all over the land gathered in Chicago for the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau federation, and gave their full support and approval to the farm relief policies of the President. Edward A. O'Neal, president of the federation, called the federal farm adjustment act the "Magna Charta of agriculture," saying that "at last farmers have the machinery and the power to obtain a fair share of the consum-

er's dollar." For forty years, he said, the farmer has been getting less and less of this dollar, but by use of the full powers of the agricultural adjustment administration, he declared, this trend can be turned the other way.

MOST of his duties having been transferred to Acting Secretary of State Morgenthau, Thomas Hewes resigned his position as assistant secretary and followed Dean Acheson and Professor Sprague out of the administration. All three of those men had been selected by Secretary Woodin, who is never expected to resume his duties, and Mr. Hewes is a close ally of Attorney General Cummings.

It was understood in Washington that Walter J. Cummings, executive treasury assistant, would retire very soon to become head of the Continental Illinois Bank and Trust company of Chicago.

CCHEERED and honored by hundreds of Americans and Cubans, but snubbed by the Grau government, Sumner Welles departed from Havana by plane to Miami on his way to Washington, where he resumes his former post as head of the Latin American affairs bureau in the Department of State. Jefferson Caffery, who succeeds him in Havana, will be, for the present, the personal representative of President Roosevelt rather than an ambassador. Whether he will be able to do more than Mr. Welles in the way of restoring peace and prosperity in Cuba is a question.

Col. Carlos Mendieta, leading oppositionist, said that the strife, with no end in sight, is keeping the island sunk in economic bankruptcy and threatened by strikes. He said the nation resents control by a government backed by army dictatorship and the student directorate, composed of 11 youths with decidedly Communistic leanings.

Augusto Saladrigas, a director of the ABC opposition, declared that 95 per cent of the natives are opposed to President Grau's revolutionary socialistic regime. Saladrigas expressed the opinion that the only solution is either a native revolution or United States intervention. A revolution seems impossible as long as the army remains loyal to Grau, but failure to meet a pay day might prove the start of a revolt.

At the Pan-American conference in Montevideo Angel Giraudy, Cuban minister of labor, attacked the Cuban policy of the United States. Failure to recognize the Grau regime, he asserted, was actually intervention, since it was upholding a minority group against the wishes of the people and propagating revolution.

ROBERT FECHNER, director of emergency conservation work, announced that a great program for education of the 300,000 men in the civilian conservation corps had been approved by the President and was being put into effect immediately. Educational advisers to the number of 1,465 are being placed in the forest work camps and an individual program of instruction for each camp is being developed. To a considerable extent the advisers are drawn from lists of unemployed teachers that have been submitted to Dr. George F. Zook, federal commissioner of education, by state directors of education.

"It is the hope of the President," Mr. Fechner said, "that the educational program, by emphasizing forestry, agriculture and like subjects, will assist the men in readjusting themselves to a new mode of living—to country life instead of city life—and to assist them in improving themselves educationally and vocationally."

"A great number of the young men in these camps arrived at working age at a time when there were no jobs. Many of them had meager educational advantages. We propose to give these men a chance at an education and to furnish them vocational guidance which will aid them to earn a living."

The opportunity for education will be offered to all members of the corps, but participation in the courses of instruction will not be mandatory.

The available working hours on forestry projects—40 hours per week—will not be disturbed. The plan is to utilize hours other than normal work-

ing periods and periods of inclement weather for purposes of instruction.

AGE cannot wither James A. Reed, who for so many years enlivened the sessions of the senate with his dynamic personality. The Missouri statesman, who is seventy-two years old, assembled 20 guests for a game dinner in Kansas City and surprised them by marrying, there and then, Mrs. Nell Q. Donnelly, wealthy garment manufacturer who has long been his political supporter and friend. Two years ago Mrs. Donnelly was kidnapped and held for ransom, and Mr. Reed helped to run down the kidnapers and prosecute them. Later Mrs. Donnelly divorced her husband. Mr. Reed's first wife died in October, 1932.

WILLIAM C. BULLITT, ambassador to Russia, was received in Moscow in a manner entirely unprecedented since the establishment of the Soviet regime. Other envoys on arrival at the capital have been accorded little or no attention until they have presented their credentials; but Mr. Bullitt was greeted with extraordinary enthusiasm by officials and populace alike. When he crossed the Russian frontier at Negoreloge he was installed in a sumptuous private car provided by the government and in this he traveled to Moscow. On his arrival at Alexandrovsky station he was met by cheering crowds and was formally presented to Alexander A. Troyanovsky, who is coming to Washington as Russian ambassador, and to Alexis Neuman, vice director of the Soviet press department.

He was installed in the National hotel, which thus became a temporary American embassy, and atop the building the Star-Spangled Banner was raised, flying thus for the first time in Soviet Russia.

Mr. Bullitt himself and his nine-year-old daughter occupy an elaborate three-room apartment which last summer was tenanted by Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh.

DOWN in Montevideo the Pan-American conference was talking about ways of ending the Chaco war between Bolivia and Paraguay, without getting anywhere. Meanwhile the forces of those countries were exceedingly busy in the jungle, with the result that the Paraguayans captured more than 13,000 Bolivian troops, with most of their officers. In one engagement more than 600 Bolivians were killed, according to the official announcement. There was great rejoicing in Asuncion, where the Paraguayans marched through decorated streets; and corresponding despair in La Paz, the Bolivian capital.

A few days later the Paraguayans captured Fort Saavedra, the most important Bolivian stronghold in the Chaco, and it was generally believed that these victories meant the final defeat of Bolivia in the war.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT let it be known that the interdepartmental committee on communications headed by Secretary of Commerce Roper had completed its study of the matter and laid its report before him. This report will be submitted to congress, and may result in legislation for rigid government regulation of telegraph, telephone and radio companies, the reorganization of the whole communications industry and some huge mergers.

The committee favors a trend toward monopoly subjected to strict federal supervision. Outright government ownership is an alternative. The consensus of studies within and without the government has been that present conditions are unsatisfactory both from the standpoint of national defense and regulation of such matters as rates, and that present restrictions give foreign governments an undue advantage over the American communication agencies.

SPANISH anarchists started a bloody revolt against the republic in the northeastern part of the country and it soon spread to Madrid and further south. There were sanguinary conflicts between the rebels and the troops and police and bombings in the capital and elsewhere were frequent. Scores were killed in street fighting, and hundreds of agitators were placed under arrest. After several days of ineffectual efforts to overcome the civil guards the anarchists resorted to their strongest weapon and proclaimed a nation-wide revolutionary strike. The order was issued through the National Confederation of Labor, which is controlled by the syndicalists.

For four days the fighting continued, and then the government announced that both the revolt and the general strike had failed.

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WHEN the postman delivers another sheaf of Christmas cards at the door during the few days just before Christmas, how many of the recipients give a thought to the magnitude of the job of preparing sentiments for helping folks to express a cheery word to friends and kin at that season?

A word about the origin of the Christmas greeting will be interesting. Thomas Skorrack of Leith is credited by an English Journal published prior to 1846 as the originator of the Christmas card, but as no copy of his card came to public notice, another source must be found.

In 1846 J. C. Horsely, R. A., acting upon the suggestion of Sir (then Mr.) Henry Cole, produced a drawing which was lithographed by Jobbins of Warwick Court, Holborn. But one thousand cards were printed, and each was colored by hand.

From this beginning the custom of

sending greetings at Christmas has spread to the entire Christian world. In an average year the output of these concerns approximates \$90,000,000 at retail prices, of which a large proportion consists of Christmas greetings.

Sentiments usually are purchased from free-lance writers, who submit them to the editorial department of the publishing company. Just as fiction and other manuscripts are submitted to editors of magazines, though some concerns maintain a writing staff.

Naturally, writers try to express a sentiment better than the purchaser himself could, and also to provide a variety of sentiments which individuals might find apt for a particular friend or relative.

Besides the Christmas cards found in the stores (called "counter cards"), individual designs and sentiments are prepared to order for personal use by society people and others. Some of the greetings of this character affected by the Hollywood movie colony are very elaborate and expensive. Others bear merely a formal engraved greeting with the name of the sender.

Another class of Christmas greetings is that provided by the telegraph companies, the sentiments being sent in code and written out in full for the recipients on special blanks decorated with Christmas designs. Telephone greetings also, both local and long-distance, make important additions to the big multi-million-dollar wish for joy to the world and a Merry Christmas to all!

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MR. MINCY, like old Scrooge, said he did not believe in Christmas. He said it was all bunk, which is the modern term for humbug (Scrooge's own word for it). Mr. Mincy was sixty-three years old and had never expended a cent of money or a drop of kindness where it wouldn't bring in a fine return. That was business. And business was all that Mr. Mincy cared for.

Once, however, business took Mr. Mincy to a far outpost in the Canadian woods. He found himself on the 24th of December trying to get transportation back to a tiny village from where he could take a train. The only person who could take him was a man who said he was on his way to get a Christmas tree for the kids.

"Christmas tree!" snorted Mr. Mincy. "Never heard of such foolish-

ness!" But he finally had to go. Much time was squandered on selecting and cutting down the tree. Mr. Mincy raged. Finally they were ready to start on. The road was extremely rough, the hills steep, the car old and dilapidated.

They came to the steepest hill of all. One side a sheer rise of cliff; on the other a drop to a deep gully. "Brakes won't hold on this," declared the driver, "hardly dare to go down."

Mr. Mincy was almost violent in his remarks.

At last a means was devised of holding the car back on the steep grade. The Christmas tree was lashed to the rear, lengthwise. It dragged on the ground and its weight and branches served to keep the car from crashing down the hill at a dangerous speed.

"You see," said one of the men in a slow drawl, "Christmas trees are some good after all!"

Mr. Mincy was obliged to admit they were . . . but it was like pulling teeth to drag the acknowledgment from him.

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Yuletide

Christmas, of all seasons, is the one most dedicated to forgetting ourselves for the sake of children.—Woman's Home Companion.