

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Dirigible Hindenburg Destroyed by Explosion, Two Score Persons Perishing—Economists and Spenders Continue Their Battle in Washington.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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ONE of the major tragedies of aeronautical history occurred when the big German dirigible Hindenburg exploded and fell in a blazing mass at the landing field in Lakehurst, N. J. At this writing the exact number of dead is unknown, but it probably is more than forty.

American passengers who in the early reports were unaccounted for and presumably killed were: Burtis Dolan, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. John Pannes, New York City; Moritz Feibusch, Lincoln, Neb.; Edward Douglas, New York; James Young and Birger Brinck, addresses not given.

The airship, just arrived from Europe on its first transatlantic trip of the year, was about to land when there was an explosion toward the stern. Instantly flames broke out and ran the length of the ship. The tail sagged first, then the nose crashed down and the split sections telescoped as they fell. A few of the 44 passengers and some members of the crew were able to jump to safety, but many of the others aboard hadn't a chance for their lives. The navy men of the ground crew heroically plunged into the flaming wreckage and dragged out those victims who could be reached.

The screams and cries of injured in agony were "terrible," the hardened sailors and marines who did the rescue work reported. The clothing was completely burned off one man.

An explosion of the No. 2 gas cell toward the stern of the ship was named as the cause of the disaster by State Aviation Commissioner Gill Robb Wilson, who called the blast "strange."

Some authorities scouted the theory that the explosion could have been caused by the ignition of hydrogen inside the gas cells. They said a mixture of 20 per cent free air with hydrogen would be necessary to cause an explosion, indicating the first blast must have occurred outside one of the gas cells.

Aeronautical experts said the only way they could explain an explosion inside the ship would be that free hydrogen had in some way escaped and was lying in the stern of the ship where it was accidentally ignited.

Capt. Ernest Lehmann, who piloted the Hindenburg last year, was aboard it on this fatal trip, but its commander was Capt. William Pruss, just promoted to the post. He is a veteran in working dirigibles.

HOW to economize by cutting down government expenditures, as the President has demanded, and at the same time to continue with such huge expenditures as the billion and a half dollars Mr. Roosevelt asked for relief is a puzzle that congress doesn't know how to solve. Harry Hopkins, Works Progress administrator and most accomplished spender of the administration, took a hand in the discussion, telling a house appropriation subcommittee that unemployment is a permanent problem, that the government should be prepared to support seven million jobless persons at all times, and consequently that congress must appropriate the billion and a half for relief instead of cutting the sum down to a billion.

Both Democrats and Republicans on the committee protested, and Chairman Woodrum of Virginia told Hopkins he would use every endeavor to have the appropriation reduced by at least a third. He challenged the figures and arguments submitted by Hopkins, contending that if the extravagance of the work relief principle and the padding of relief rolls with undeserving cases were eliminated and the states required to assume a greater share of the burden the cost to the federal government would not exceed one billion.

Senator William H. King of Utah, Democrat, not only disagrees with Hopkins as to the amount needed for relief, but isn't satisfied with the way the administrator has been conducting the work. He introduced resolutions in the senate calling for an investigation of the works progress administration and taking the future spending of relief money out

of Hopkins' hands. King said his purpose was to abolish the WPA.

In the house economy received a wallop on the head when the reforestation bill was passed, 171 to 153. This measure would appropriate \$2,500,000 annually for government aid to farmers who wish to turn part of their farms into woodlands. It was fought by a bloc led by Representative J. J. Cochran of Missouri, Democrat. "It has a worth while objective, but it is one of those expensive measures which we can defer passing for a while until the budget is in balance," declared Cochran.

BEWILDERED members of congress were still further dazed when they learned that the administration was moving to obtain approval of the Florida ship canal project which will call for \$197,000,000. This was revealed when Secretary of the Navy Swanson sent to the house rivers and harbors committee a letter urging that the canal scheme be approved. It was assumed he would not have done this without the approval of the President. Mr. Swanson argued that the canal would be of value during war for the shipment of materials.

Testimony labeled "confidential" was also heard by the committee from Gen. Charles P. Summerall, retired chief of staff of the army, and Rear Admiral Frederic B. Bassett, retired. Both declared that the canal would serve as "a most important element of the national defense in time of war."

Representative Beiter of New York, Democrat, called upon the budget bureau to make known its stand on the Florida canal question.

FREQUENT reports have been heard in Washington that government employees, including some high officials, took advantage of their "inside" knowledge that the attorney general was going to file suit to dissolve the Aluminum Company of America by selling the common stock short, thereby making immense profits. Just the day before the suit was filed President Roosevelt issued his order against stock speculation by employees of the government.

Attention of congress was called to the matter when Representative Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, Republican, demanded an investigation.

"I hold no brief for the Aluminum Company of America," Mrs. Rogers told the house. "I know nothing about the institution, but I am very anxious to know why the common stock of this huge enterprising corporation should decline over 300 per cent more than similar industrial stocks in the period just prior to announcement of the government's suit."

"To the 325,000 employees of the government the President's announcement was a most czaristic order," Mrs. Rogers declared. "I believe the money paid to federal employees is just as much their money to do with as they please as is the money paid to any employee working at any job in any place in the United States."

But government employees, she added, certainly ought not to have the advantage of knowledge withheld from the public.

TWELVE American women reached what some people consider a social climax when they were received by King George and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain at the first court of the new reign. These favored matrons and debutantes had been carefully coached at the American embassy and were presented by Mrs. Robert W. Bingham, wife of the American ambassador. They were:

Eleanora Bowdoin of Aiken, S. C.; Mrs. George Temple Bowdoin of New York City; Catherine M. Maher of Lincoln, Neb.; Mrs. George W. Norton Jr., of Louisville; Mrs. John Perrin of Boston; Anne Schenck of New York City; Vesta Putnam Culbertson of Chicago; Mrs. F. Vernon Foster of West Orange, N. J.; Lydia Fuller of Boston; Mrs. Dozier L. Gardner of Philadelphia; Mrs. Byron Hilliard of Louisville, and Mrs. Julia Henry of Philadelphia.

FOR three days Premier Mussolini of Italy conferred in Rome with Baron Konstantin von Neurath, foreign minister of Germany. Then an official communique was issued indicating that the two countries were determined to prevent the creation of a communist state in western Europe, holding "a complete parallelism of views" on this and other subjects. It was added that the Italian and German governments will "continue to follow a concordat policy on all major questions."

It was understood in Rome that, though Mussolini and Hitler were eager to work for peace with Britain and France, they were prepared to take open part in the Spanish war if other means fail to prevent the establishment of a regime sympathetic to soviet Russia.

The Italian parliament passed Mussolini's national defense budget carrying \$289,300,000 for 1937-38. Admiral Cavagnari, undersecretary for the navy, told the deputies the Italian navy "from now on must be an ocean going navy" rather than one confined to the Mediterranean. General Pariani, for the war department, said Italy was taking no chances concerning protection of her frontiers. The government, he said, intended to build up in the Italian peninsula an army which would be able to paralyze an enemy's advances and "win the war in the shortest possible time."

MRS. WALLIS SIMPSON was granted an absolute decree of divorce in London, and within a few hours Edward, duke of Windsor, was on his way from St. Wolfgang, Austria, to visit his fiancée at the Chateau de Candé near Tours, France. The former king of Great Britain had been waiting impatiently, baggage packed, for word that Wallis was entirely free, and he lost no time when his solicitors telephoned him from London.



Mrs. Simpson

It took only 25 seconds to make absolute the decree nisi which Mrs. Simpson obtained last October 27. The king's proctor had been satisfied with the lady's behavior in the interval, and Sir Boyd Merriam, president of the divorce court, personally granted the decree along with a lot of others.

The date for the wedding of the duke of Windsor and Mrs. Simpson has not yet been announced, but it probably will be in the week beginning May 24. Edward was willing to wait until all the coronation hubbaloos was over for he did not wish to annoy his royal brother in any way.

REICHSFUEHRER ADOLF HITLER was informed by Pope Pius XI that the Roman Catholic church must be free to fulfill its mission in Germany. This reply to the German church note, which itself was a reply to the pope's pre-Easter encyclical accusing the German government of violating the 1933 church-state concordat, was delivered by Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli to the German ambassador to the holy see, Diego von Bergen.

The note was rather moderate in tone, but insisted that economic pressure must not be brought to bear against Catholics in Germany; that Catholic schools and the Catholic press should not be hampered.

ELEVEN unions of the Federated Motion Picture Crafts, with about 6,000 members, went on strike in Hollywood, Calif., and the great film industry there was in serious difficulties. The strikers counted heavily on co-operation by the Screen Actors' guild, but that body, which has 5,600 members, delayed action until it could confer with the producers. The guild already had presented a number of demands regarding working conditions and hours and overtime pay.

Fifteen of the largest hotels in San Francisco were practically tied up by a strike of 3,500 employees. The strikers were given the active support of 13 unions. They insisted that hotel owners had refused to agree to preferential hiring and a five day week for clerks, although other groups of hotel employees had been awarded such conditions.

SOME of the most desperate fighting of the Spanish civil war was taking place in the struggle for Bilbao between the sturdy Basques and Gen. Emilio Mola's veterans, reputedly mostly Italians and Germans. The insurgents had promised not to bomb the center of the city but bombarded its environs heavily from the land and the air. By fierce attacks they broke through the Basque lines on the Bay of Biscay coast, reaching Bilbao's seaports at the mouth of the Nervion river.

Disregarding the protests of General Franco, Fascist chieftain, the British and French governments undertook to remove from Bilbao a large number of women and children.

NEWS NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST

A Brief Summary of Events of Special Interest to Oregon, Washington and Idaho Communities.

BOISE, Ida.—WPA crews, among their multifarious operations last year, treated more than 4000 acres for plant disease and rid the state of 4714 pests.

PORTLAND, Ore.—Approximately 2,526 Oregon wage earners or their estates are expected to file claims during 1937 for lump-sum or death benefits with the Bureau of Federal Old-Age Benefits, James E. Peebles, Portland Field Representative, has announced.

CLARK FORK, Ida.—A library, sponsored by the WPA and NYA will be opened here soon. Mrs. Bessie L. Teague will be senior librarian, and Miss Mary Loula Clifford will be junior assistant. Coeur d'Alene has donated 150 books, and 200 will be received from a traveling library.

OROFINO, Ida.—The first lease for sheep grazing of the Clearwater Protective association area on Canyon creek was signed last week by J. H. Dobbins of Enterprise, Ore. The association is anticipating approximately 50,000 head of sheep this year. Several contracts await signatures.

SOUTH BEND, Wash.—Distribution of 360 pheasant eggs was being made today by County Agent T. R. Cole to 11 boys in two 4-H clubs at Mill Creek and South Bend. The eggs will be hatched and reared to ten weeks age and then turned over to the state game department for liberation in Pacific county.

KENNEWICK, Wash.—Most of the land in the Kennewick highlands under the Kennewick Irrigation company's canal has been sold within the last two years, with the majority of buyers immigrants from the drought areas. The tendency is toward diversified farming on larger acreage, replacing the small-tract farm.

MONTESANO, Wash.—Examiners will begin a tour of Grays Harbor county schools next week to conduct standardized tests in the first, second, third and eighth grades. It is announced by Mrs. Adele Allen Oliver, county superintendent. Eighth grade tests will be the basis for promotion to high school, replacing the old-time state eighth grade examinations.

DAVENPORT, Wash.—Gordon Bonser recently had a narrow escape from death when a "tree climber" wood saw he was using on a tree flew back, ripping his back badly. The youth walked half a mile along after the accident before finding a car to bring him to Davenport for medical treatment by Dr. J. H. Poynter. The wound required 28 stitches to close, but was not deep.

NEWBERG, Ore.—A wedding ring lost nearly 21 years has been returned to its owner because W. E. Mulkey chose the right place to dig some fishworms. In 1916 Mrs. O. J. McCoy, lost her wedding ring while working in her garden. A few days ago Mulkey, a brother of Mrs. Elnora Sickafosse, who now owns the property, found the ring while digging bait in the back-yard. The name of the owner was engraved on the inside and the ring was promptly returned to Mrs. McCoy, who is still a resident of this city.

FUR BEARERS DECREASE OLYMPIA, Wash.—Washington's wild game and predatory animals are increasing and its fur-bearing animals growing fewer in number, a comparison of the 1935 and 1936 game census reports of the U. S. forest service reveals. With the exception of elk and black bear, all game animals showed increases during 1936.

"Nose counting" showed an estimated 8230 porcupine compared to 7700 in 1935. In the fur-bearing class only skunks and racoons increased.

FUTURE FARMERS ELECT CORTALLIS, Ore.—James McAlister of Enterprise was elected president of the Oregon Future Farmers of America at the business session of the annual convention here last week.

Other officers elected were Robert Lundy, Myrtle Point, vice-president; Howard Conner, Henry, secretary; Phil Heinoman, Amity, treasurer; and Jack Koch, Salem, reporter. Instructors named to the executive committee were Alfred Loy, Enterprise; Ralph Morgan, Salem, and W. S. Carpenter, Grants Pass.

What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

Humane Fox Hunting.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—In England it has been decided that fox-hunting is humane. This opinion emanates from the hunters. The foxes have not been heard from on the subject.

Maybe you don't know it, but there's a lot of fox-hunting among us, especially down south. Being but a lot of stubborn non-conformists, south-ersners do not follow the historic rules. A party at large wearing a red coat, white pants and high boots would be mistaken for a refugee from a circus band. And anybody blowing a horn as he galloped across hill and dale would be set down as an insane fish peddler; and if you shouted "View, halloo! Tantivy, tantivy! Yoicks, yoicks!" or words to that effect, they'd think you were a new kind of hog-caller.

Down there they've chased the fox until he's wise. The foxes have learned that the hounds can't follow trail on a paved highway and so quit the thicket for the concrete when the chase is on. A fox has been sitting in the middle of the big road listening to the bewildered pack.

On second thought maybe Brer Fox isn't so smart, after all—not with automobile traffic what it is. 'Tis a hard choice.

Courageous Republicans. WHO, besides the writer, can recall when the Democrats held their jubilation rallies the night before a presidential election and the Republicans the night after the returns were in, when they had something to jubilate over? Now the situation is just the other way around. The Literary Digest poll was practically the only thing the Republicans had to celebrate during the entire fall season of 1936.

Still, we must give that diminished but gallant band credit for courage. Here, in an off-year, they're spiritedly planning against the next congressional campaign.

English Recruiting. THE English are still having trouble inducing young fellows to join the colors. First, the government tried to increase enlistments by giving every recruit a giddy new blue uniform, absolutely free of charge, and still the lads refused. So now, as an appeal which, 'tis believed, no true Britisher can withstand, the military authorities announce that, hereafter, Tommy Atkins will have time off for afternoon tea.

This may be a new notion for peacetime, but, during the great war, the custom was maintained even up at the front. Many a time I've seen all ranks, from the brigadiers on down, knocking off for tea. However, this didn't militate against his majesty's forces, because, at the same hour, the Germans, over on their side of the line, were having coffee—or what the Germans mistake for coffee. And the French took advantage of the lull to catch up with their bookkeeping on what the allies owed them for damage to property, ground rent, use of trenches, billeting space, wear and tear, etc., etc.

The Job of Censorship. ONE reason why moving pictures are so clean is because some of the people who censor them have such dirty minds. To the very pure everything is so impure, is it not? That's why some of us think the weight of popular opinion, rather than the judgment of narrow-brained official judges in various states, should decide what should and what should not be depicted. Anyhow, there are so many movies which, slightly amending the old ballad, are more to be pitied than censored.

Sponsors of radio programs also lean over backward to be prudishly proper. But without let or hindrance the speaking stage, month by month, grows fouler and filthier. Suggestive lines once created a shock in the audience mind. The lines no longer suggest—they come right out and speak the nastiness. Sauce for the goose isn't sauce for the gander, 'twould seem—or maybe, after the reformers got through saucing radio and screen, there wasn't any left over for the so-called legitimate stage.

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