

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field

Washington. — High army and navy officials are completely muzzled on the neutrality issue as far as any public utterance is concerned, and one may be sure that, remembering the experience of Gen. Johnson Hagood, none of them are going to prove embarrassing to the administration even if summoned before congressional committees, but—they think nothing of it.

This writer has asked any number of high ranking army and navy officers the very simple question: "Is the senate cash and carry neutrality plan, or the house plan giving the President wider discretion, more likely to keep this nation out of a World War?"

Similarity of the answers would almost convince a listener that there had been a solemn military conclave, at which a formal doctrine with respect to this subject had been approved. For the answer almost invariably runs something like this:

"Neither plan will keep this country out of war. Both plans are vicious in many respects. The senate plan forces every far-sighted foreign nation to plan to get its war supplies from some other nation, unless it is sure it has plenty of shipping to fetch them from this country, and even then there is the incentive to build up supplies elsewhere. This of course tends to destroy our export trade, and creates an additional artificial encouragement to other nations to build up their own merchant marines, as they know they cannot make use of ships flying the American flag.

"The house plan is highly dangerous because it grants the President virtually power to discriminate between belligerents. To discriminate, of course, is to take sides, and right away this country is, to that limited extent, on one side or the other.

## No Sure Way to Peace

"There is no sure way of maintaining peace, and never will be in this world. The nearest approach to it is a very adequate army and navy, the larger and more dangerous to any possible antagonist the better. No nation is running around picking quarrels with a nation whose army and navy it understands to be definitely superior to its own.

"Any other precaution is just idealistic, wishful thinking, is not practical and, if it works at all, is far more likely to work toward getting the United States into war than keeping it out."

Incidentally, of course, most army and navy men do not like the idea of discouraging munitions exports, even. They like the British system of encouraging munitions manufacturers, with the thought that when war does come the country gets off to a flying start, as contrasted with the terrific lag inevitable if there is only government manufacture of munitions. They insist that the government will never spend enough money, in peace time, to have the facilities ready to turn out sufficient supplies when war comes.

Only the incentive of private profit, they assert provides that sort of capacity. Moreover, they do not like to see the munition-making business transferred to some other country, possibly one which some day will be at war with the United States.

Senator Bennett C. Clark of Missouri has not had much success so far in working out his solution for this problem. He would have the government manufacture—or buy—and keep in stock sufficient jigs and dies and tools so that on the outbreak of war all sorts of factories and machine shops could be transformed into armament plants.

## Peace Conference

Diplomatic denials are always to be taken with a grain, in fact a pinch, of salt. This goes for the recent denial of Secretary of State Cordell Hull with respect to better prospects of a peace conference. Of course all that Mr. Hull denied was that this was the errand of Norman H. Davis in London, and in this he was, at least technically, correct.

Regardless of any statements made hitherto or to be made in the future, however, President Roosevelt is thinking a great deal about an international conference. He has been for a long time. No one in the diplomatic corps here is going to embarrass Mr. Hull or the President by rushing into print about it, no matter what the President and his Secretary of State may say, but virtually every important embassy and legation in Washington knows all about the highly unofficial inquiries that the President has caused to be made with respect to an international conference, which will have two major objectives.

One of these is the maintenance of peace. The second is some more permanent and dependable stabiliza-

tion of the dollar with the pound and the franc and other national monetary units. There is a very excellent working arrangement right now so far as dollar, pound and franc are concerned—in the tripartite agreement. But that is just a gentlemen's agreement. It is not only unsanctioned so far as the parliamentary bodies of Britain, France and the United States are concerned, but it is susceptible of being cancelled on a few hours' notice at any time.

Mr. Roosevelt has been thinking seriously of such an international conference for a long time. It will be recalled that he sent up a trial balloon last summer, during the campaign, through the New York Times. It was never officially confirmed but no State department official or diplomat in Washington has ever doubted that it was inspired direct from the White House.

## Wait on Spanish War

At the moment, the situation is waiting on the Spanish war. Present inquiries are as to whether the governments concerned will agree to such a conference when and if the Spanish conflagration stops shooting sparks all around the various European powder dumps.

It is likely to come very soon, now, for though there is not much sign of peace in Spain there is a growing belief that the danger involved of its spreading to other nations is growing appreciably less with every passing day. Certain dangerous figures have learned that troops and weapons they thought irresistible are not truly so. The same figures have learned that their possible enemies in a war are more dangerous than they had thought. Nor does this apply solely to either side. It applies to both. All of which has put certain European governments in a much more receptive mood to a peace plan than they were when Mr. Roosevelt sent up his trial balloon last summer.

Actually, also, there is very real need in the opinion of the Roosevelt administration, and also in the view of several European governments, for currency stabilization. The New Deal is concerned about runaway price rises. It would like very much to accomplish just the opposite of what it was trying to do in 1933 and 1934. It would like to make the dollar more valuable instead of less. As evidence of this, it has even considered marking down slightly the price of gold—in dollars. Treasury department opposition has prevented this.

## Eggs for Russia

There would seem to be quite an opening for chicken farms in Russia, particularly in the vicinity of Moscow. Ambassador Joseph E. Davies has discovered that the egg supply of every foreign embassy and legation in the capital of the U. S. S. R. is supplied by diplomatic couriers, who bring the eggs 800 miles from Warsaw, Poland. This doesn't look so far on the map, but it is only 787 miles from Washington to Chicago, only 733 miles from Chicago to Atlanta, and only 840 miles from Indianapolis to Charleston, South Carolina!

It might be borne in mind, in assimilating this rather curious—to American farmers—lack of egg production in the vicinity of Moscow, that transportation facilities in the United States, both railroads and highways, are immeasurably superior to those in Russia, so that actually the difficulty and time involved in transporting those eggs is much greater than for comparable distances in the United States. And this entirely aside from the fact that the eggs cannot be shipped in ordinary fashion, but must be carried across the frontier, from about the center of Poland to about the center of European Russia, by a diplomat courier exempt for examination, from hold-up and from tariff duties.

Incidentally the American embassy is the only one in the Russian capital that is not supplied with certain luxuries, and, from the American standpoint, necessities, by couriers. Young attaches at the United States embassy keep writing their friends and relatives to send them every sort of thing, from canned tomatoes to tooth paste, from insect powder to cold cream, which, for various reasons probably entirely in keeping with the scheme of things in Russia, are not easily obtainable by purchase there.

## Russia No Rival

All of which, being discussed at a recent Washington dinner where most of the guests were State department officials and their wives, with a slight sprinkling from Capitol Hill, brought forth the declaration of one senator, who had visited Russia, that he thought the idea that Russia would be a competitor of the United States within a few years ridiculous.

He made the statement after considerable wonder was expressed that the Russian peasants, living in such poverty, did not seize upon such an obvious market for eggs as the various embassies and legations of Moscow. True, the market would be small, comparatively, but it would be enough for quite a few farmers with farms close to the Soviet capital to do very well indeed.

"It wouldn't occur to the Russian farmers that any one would want really fresh eggs," broke in another senator. "Several of us were over there a few years back. We had plenty of food, but we noticed they like eggs just a bit 'high.' We couldn't eat them."

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## Storms and Hurricanes Are Nemesis of Mr. Purcell



Henry M. Purcell doesn't like storms. Three times in the last ten years he has been their victim. He went through the Miami, Fla., hurricane in 1926, moved to Palm Beach afterwards, but was caught in the "big blow" of 1928. Then he moved to Montgomery, Ala., but the storm which struck there recently wrecked his garage and blew it down on his car. He is undecided where to go next.

## President Gets First Buddy Poppy



President Roosevelt shown receiving the first buddy poppy of the 1937 Buddy Poppy sale conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, from little Ruth Joyce Bradish. Miss Bradish admires a part of the collection of animals on the President's desk, after the presentation.

## OGPU CHIEF JAILED



Genrikh G. Yagoda, former chief of the dreaded Russian OGPU (secret police), who is the latest celebrity accused of plotting against the life of Josef Stalin. Dismissed from his post of commissar of posts and telegraphs recently, he is reported now a captive in one of Moscow's grim prisons.

## SHE USES 3,800 WORDS



Mary Christine Dunn, twenty-eight-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence T. Dunn, of Bonne Terre, Mo., who, according to scientists of Washington university, has an intelligence quotient of 185. This is 45 points higher than the I. Q. normally attributed to genius. Mary's parents say she has a vocabulary of more than 3,800 words.

## Pity the Man at the End!



Imagine the feelings of the man at the end of this recumbent line of members of the Royal Signal corps if the trick motorcyclist underestimates the length of the jump. It's the end man that's ridden over roughshod. Everything turned out all right, however, in this test made near London.

## Film Girls Attracted to California Beaches



With the coming of warmer weather many of Hollywood's starlets keep in trim by daily runs on the nearby beaches. Photograph shows, left to right, Lillian Porter, Gloria Brewster, Marjorie Weaver, Barbara Brewster and Lynn Bari, taking their daily run on the nearby Santa Monica beach.

## Household Questions

**New Hot-Water Bottles**—Have a little glycerine added to the water with which hot-water bottles are filled for the first time. This will make the rubber supple, and the bottle will last longer.

**For Steamed or Boiled Puddings**—Puddings will not stick to the basin if two strips of proof paper are put crosswise in the basin before the mixture is poured in.

**Removing Stains on Hands**—Vegetable stains can be removed from the hands by rubbing them with a slice of raw potato.

**For Good Gravy**—Did you know that gravy, to be served with roast meat, will taste much nicer and contain more nutriment if it is made with the water in which the vegetables have been boiled?

**Protecting Buttonholes**—A row of machine-sewing around button holes in knit underwear prevents stretching and makes them last longer.

**Boiling Old Potatoes**—Old potatoes sometimes turn black during boiling. To prevent this add a squeeze of lemon juice to the water in which they are boiled.

**Salmon in Rice Nests**—Two cups of rich cream sauce, one egg yolk, two teaspoons lemon juice, one pound can salmon, one small can mushrooms, one cup rice, two hard cooked eggs. Beat egg yolks slightly and add to the hot cream sauce with the lemon juice. Add the salmon and the sliced mushrooms and heat thoroughly. Boil the rice, drain and form in mounds on plates; then make depression in mounds to form nests. Fill with salmon mixture. Cut hard cooked eggs in quarters lengthwise and garnish each serving with one.

## Don't

## BREAK YOUR BACK polishing floors

This amazing new O-Cedar wax gives your floors a beautiful finish in 20 minutes. Simply apply, let it dry—and your work is done! It polishes itself! Non-slippery, won't check! Greater water resistance gives longer wear. Insist on the genuine O-Cedar for full satisfaction.



## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

### MUSHROOMS

MAKE \$1 TO \$5 DAILY AT HOME. Grow mushrooms for us in cellar or shed. Amazing, quick, steady profits. Write Western Mushroom Co., Portland, Ore.

### Two Kinds of Secrecy

A proper secrecy is the only mystery of able men; mystery is the only secrecy of weak and cunning ones.—Chesterfield.

## HELP KIDNEYS

### To Get Rid of Acid and Poisonous Waste

Your kidneys help to keep you well by constantly filtering waste matter from the blood. If your kidneys get functionally disordered and fail to remove excess impurities, there may be poisoning of the whole system and body-wide distress. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination may be a warning of some kidney or bladder disturbance. You may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel weak, nervous, all played out.

In such cases it is better to rely on a medicine that has won country-wide acclaim than on something less favorably known. Use Doan's Pills. A multitude of grateful people recommend Doan's. Ask your neighbor!

## DOAN'S PILLS

## "Quotations"

If you subtract the universities from the life of the world today it will be a barren, a sorrowful and shortly a dead thing.—Nicholas Murray Butler.

The photographer is useful, but the artist who paints a picture is creating something new.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

You should always go forward, but not too quickly. If you must have a car, you must have a brake.—Andre Maurois.

The good neighbor is tolerant, but his toleration does not include those who would introduce discord from elsewhere.—Cordell Hull.

Americans have very little judgment on the relative importance of foreign news.—Lord Marley.