

Townsend Plan Inquiry Attracts Attention

WHILE waiting for instructions as to what to do in the matter of taxation, the members of the houseand many others-directed their attention to the investiga-



sion plan promoters. Speaker Byrns 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.

tion of the activities

of the Townsend pen-

J. Jasper Bell 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 abridgement of the right to petition.

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

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 con gress 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

"By order of the President, Maj. Gen. Johnson Hagood, United States army is relieved from assignment to the command of the Eighth Corps are: and further duty at Fort Sam Houston Texas. Maj. Gen. Hagoo'd will procee to his home and await orders. Th travel directed is necessary in the mil itary 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 de termined foe of national prohibition, and in 1932 a candidate for the Presidential nomination by his party. Though beaten



A. C. Ritchie

out by F. D. Roosevelt, he had the satisfaction of seeing his repeal plank put into the Democratic platform. Of 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.

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

Ship Subsidy Measure Seems to Be Discarded

DEVELOPMENTS in Washington EVELOPMENTS 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 Guf-

fey 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

CAPT. 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 unchallengable."

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. late he had been an outspoken critic "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 Slayings 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 insular 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 caugh: and admitted the killing, saying it was in revenge for the Rio Pedras "massa cre" in which police killed four tionalists last November. While being questioned, the murderers, the police said, reached for guns and were shto death.

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, antimanipulation laws, and a program to educate the public against unwise stock purchases.

"One sees with con- J. M. Landis cern," 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 Is 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 fiftyseven years. "Billy," as he was known to airmen, 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 courtmartialed 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, Re-



Sen. Couzens 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 apprinment 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. 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. Margiottl's law partners and associates were planning a "big tax fee grab." Acquitted with the Inquirer were its editor, John Trevor Custis, 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. Hilles 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.

Neutrality Act Extended

for Another Year

BOTH house and senate passed the resolution extending for one year the exisitng 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.

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