

# Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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## New Housing Program of the Administration

FEDERAL money totaling \$976,000,000 will be spent in the next four years on low-cost rent and slum clearance construction projects, provided the administration's housing bill, introduced by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, is passed by congress. Mr. Wagner hopes it will be put through during the present session.



Sen. Wagner

The measure is a compromise of the many proposals made by the various relief and housing agencies of the New Deal and was drafted after a series of conferences with President Roosevelt. It would create another bureau, with five directors, including the secretary of the interior in his ex officio capacity, receiving \$10,000 salaries. The authority could employ officers, agents, counsel and other personnel without limitation as to number or compensation and without regard for the civil service laws. This authority would supplant the existing housing division of the Public Works administration.

Only \$51,000,000 would be appropriated for the present, of which \$1,000,000 would be used for the purchase of the authority's capital stock, but the bill authorizes appropriations of \$75,000,000 for the fiscal year 1938, \$100,000,000 for 1939, and \$100,000,000 for 1940. In addition to these authorizations, the authority could borrow \$100,000,000 from the Reconstruction Finance corporation, and sell notes or bonds, fully guaranteed by the government as to principal and interest, up to \$100,000,000 for the fiscal year 1937 and \$150,000,000 for each of the succeeding three years. This brings the grand total to \$976,000,000.

The authority would be empowered to make grants not to exceed 45 per cent of the total cost and loans for the remainder to any public housing agency for the acquisition of land and the construction of "low-rent" housing projects. The loans would be repayable over a period not to exceed 60 years, at such rates of interest as the authority decreed. In addition to the loans and grants, the authority could develop and administer so-called demonstration projects, which "as soon as practicable" would be sold to public housing agencies.

## Supreme Court Hits at Arbitrary Power

IN A decision concerning a specific action of the Securities Exchange commission the United States Supreme court ruled against the SEC, and in its pronouncement it uttered a significant warning against the exercise of arbitrary power by governmental agencies. Especially censured were the "fishing excursions," often undertaken by commissions and congressional committees. Said the court:

"The philosophy that constitutional limitations and legal restraints upon official action may be brushed aside upon the plea that good, perchance, may follow, finds no countenance in the American system of government. An investigation not based upon specified grounds is quite as objectionable as a search warrant not based upon specific statements of fact.

"Such an investigation, or such a search, is unlawful in its inception and cannot be made lawful by what it may bring, or by what it actually succeeds in bringing to light."

The decision was concurred in by six justices; a dissenting opinion handed down by Justices Cardozo, Brandeis and Stone, agreed with the

warning of the abuse of power, but contended that the act of the SEC, held unlawful by the majority, was a legal and just means of stamping out frauds in security sales.

## Mrs. Roosevelt Christens New Plane Carrier

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT flew down to Newport News in an army plane and there christened the navy's new \$2,000,000 airplane carrier Yorktown, breaking a bottle of domestic champagne on its bow. The Yorktown will be ready for its test trip in about 12 months, and a few months later its sister ship, the Enterprise, will be completed.

The flying deck of the Yorktown is 109 feet 6 inches wide, and 809 feet 6 inches long. The ship will have a speed in excess of 35 miles an hour. It will carry 2,072 officers and men, and about 142 airplanes.

## Senate Begins Impeachment Trial of Judge Ritter

RESOLVING itself into a court, the senate began the impeachment trial of Federal Judge Halsted L. Ritter of Florida—the twelfth such case in 137 years. It was believed the trial would last at least one week. The defendant was represented by Carl T. Hoffman of Miami and Frank R. Walsh of Washington and New York. The prosecution was in charge of Representative Sumners of Texas, Hobbs of Alabama and Perkins of New Jersey.



Judge Ritter

Originally approximately 60 witnesses were summoned for the trial, but 29 were excused because of withdrawal by the prosecution of two specifications in article seven charging Judge Ritter acted improperly in electric rate and banking proceedings.

Judge Ritter is charged in seven impeachment articles voted by the house with allowing A. L. Rankin, a former law partner, exorbitant receivership fees, with "corruptly" receiving \$4,500 from Rankin, with violating the judicial code in practice of law while on the bench, and with evasion of taxes on part of his 1929 and 1930 incomes.

In a 12,000-word reply, Ritter denied all of the charges. He asserted none of the actions cited had "brought his court into scandal and disrepute" or "destroyed public confidence in the administration of justice" in that court.

## Wallace Reports Some Big AAA Payments

DUE to the insistence of Senator Vandenberg for publicity on large AAA benefit payments, Secretary Wallace has begun telling about them. He made a partial report, withholding the names of recipients with three exceptions. This revealed that the largest cotton rental benefit payment, \$123,747 for 1934, went to a Mississippi company headed by Oscar Johnston, an AAA official. Among the largest cotton payment recipients in 1933 were the Mississippi state penitentiary, which received \$43,200 for controlling production on its cotton acreage, and \$25,500 to the Arkansas state prison.

Among other large payments reported under various crop control programs were:

Sugar—\$961,064 to a Puerto Rican corporation; \$862,400 to a Hawaiian producer; \$92,237 to a California beet sugar producer; \$65,505 to a Colorado beet sugar grower. Corn-hogs—\$150,000 to the "largest hog farm in the world," located in California; \$49,194 to a farming

company in New Jersey; \$19,068 to a Massachusetts producer.

Wheat—\$29,398 to a California farming concern for the second 1934 and first 1935 periods; \$26,022 to the "operator of a number of farms" in Washington state; \$23,845 to a California bank, owner of a large wheat acreage; \$22,325 to a "large Montana farmer."

Cotton—\$115,700 in 1934 to an Arkansas concern; \$80,000 the same year to another Arkansas company.

Tobacco—\$41,454 to a Florida concern; \$20,430 to a Connecticut producer; \$16,843 to a South Carolina grower; \$15,450 to a Kentucky grower.

## Bruno Hauptmann's Body Cremated in New York

WITH the "utmost privacy," funeral services were held in New York for Bruno Hauptmann, who was executed in Trenton, N. J., for the kidnaping and murder of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh's baby son. The body was then cremated and it was announced that the ashes would be taken to Germany. Hauptmann went to the chair steadily, insisting that he was innocent of the crime.

Governor Hoffman of New Jersey, who delayed the execution in the belief that accomplices of Hauptmann might be apprehended and was severely criticized for his activities, was urging a sweeping investigation of his own acts, as well as those of Attorney General David T. Wilentz and the state police in the preparation of evidence.

In New York the authorities were making further inquiry into the claim of Paul H. Wendel that he was held prisoner in Brooklyn and tortured into a false confession of the Lindbergh kidnaping.

## Alberta Defaults on Two Matured Bond Issues

UNABLE to raise \$3,200,000 to redeem two bond issues reaching maturity, the province of Alberta, Canada, defaulted. Premier William Aberhart, leader of the Social Credit party, admitted he could not get the necessary funds. In last fall's election the Social Credit party won a big victory. One of the planks in its platform advocated the payment of \$25 of social credit "dividends" monthly to every citizen. None of these dividends has been forthcoming as yet.

## Hitler's Peace Program Is Formally Submitted

ADOLF HITLER'S proposals for peace in Europe, together with his flat rejection of the plan of the other four Locarno powers for settlement of the Rhineland situation, were handed to British Foreign Minister Eden by Joachim von Ribbentrop, and passed on by Eden to the French and Belgian ambassadors in London. The British cabinet thought the German scheme worthy of consideration, but the French government looked upon it as a "cunning plan" to split the Locarno powers and make Hitler the virtual dictator of Europe. Premier Sarraut and Foreign Minister Flandin were consulting on steps for frustrating the reichsfuehrer and preserving a united front of the Locarno nations.



Adolf Hitler

Following the example of Germany, the Austrian diet has repudiated that nation's military obligations under the St. Germain treaty. By unanimous vote it approved a bill introduced by Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg, providing for general national military service "with or without arms." Every male from his eighteenth to his forty-

second year is liable to conscription. This move, which has the support of Premier Mussolini of Italy, was not unexpected, and though it aroused the little entente nations to anger, probably their formal protests will bring no result.

Hitler's note made these proposals:

1. A "standstill" agreement to exist on both sides of the German border for four months during which Germany, France, and Belgium would make no troop movements. This "armistice" would be guaranteed by a neutral commission.

2. A 25-year nonaggression pact between Germany, France, and Belgium, guaranteed by an international arbitration court, to be negotiated immediately after the French elections.

3. Negotiation for nonaggression pacts between Germany and her other neighbors.

4. Germany to return to the League of Nations as an equal if the league covenant is separated from the Versailles treaty and with the understanding that colonial concessions will be made.

5. When a general settlement is in sight conferences to be held to secure the prohibition in warfare of gas, poison and incendiary bombs, bombing of civilians, bombing of towns more than 12 miles from the battle zone, and the abolition of heavy tanks and heavy artillery.

6. A general economic and disarmament conference.

## Italy Claims Big Victory Over Ethiopians

PEACE negotiations between Italy and Ethiopia, outside the League of Nations, seem imminent, for emissaries of Emperor Haile Selassie already have been received by Marshal Pietro Badoglio, and the Italian undersecretary of colonies is in East Africa to conduct the preliminaries. This news followed closely the dispatches telling of a great victory won by Badoglio's northern troops over 20,000 fresh



Marshal Badoglio

and picked Ethiopian soldiers whose fight was directed and watched by the emperor himself. The battle, at Mai Ceu, lasted all day and the Ethiopians left 7,000 dead on the field as they fled to join the main body of 50,000 troops south of Lake Ashangi eight miles away. Italian fatalities included 16 officers and about 1,000 soldiers, most of the latter being Eritrean Askaris. It was believed Marshal Badoglio would follow up this victory with a smashing blow at Dessye, main concentration point of the Ethiopians, unless peace negotiations stop him.

Just before this battle the Italian air bombers practically ruined Harar, second city of Ethiopia.

## Tornadoes in the South Kill Scores of Persons

TORNADOES tore across Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, and Tennessee, leaving death and destruction in their wake. About 400 persons were killed and hundreds of others injured, and the property losses ran up into the millions. The little city of Tupelo, Miss., suffered the most, with nearly 200 on the death list and more than a hundred homes smashed into kindling wood.

A few hours later another tornado struck Gainesville, Ga., and in three minutes had nearly ruined the business section of the town and killed more than 150 persons. In fires that followed the storm the bodies of many victims were burned beyond recognition.

The mining communities near Columbia, Tenn., to the north and east of Tupelo, counted seven dead. Red

Bay, eastward in Alabama, lost five lives to the merciless wind. Near-by Booneville, Miss., had four killed and Batesville, Ark., suffered one death.

The tornadoes struck while the southeast was reaching a final total on storms which smashed through that region a few days before, causing 43 deaths in Georgia, the Carolinas, Alabama and Florida.

## Lowden May Be Keynote for the Republicans

LEADERS of both major parties are perfecting the arrangements for the national conventions and picking out the chief orators for those occasions.

The Republicans have tentatively selected Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois, as temporary chairman and keynote of the gathering in Cleveland. If this choice stands it is presumed the permanent chairman will be an Easterner, possibly Walter Edge of New Jersey, former ambassador and senator.

F. O. Lowden

Some Western governor is wanted by the Democrats as their keynote, and the honor may be given to Paul V. McNutt of Indiana, C. Ben Ross of Idaho or Clyde C. Herring of Iowa. For permanent chairman at Philadelphia Senator Robinson of Arkansas is likely to be picked. The speech putting President Roosevelt in nomination for a second term may be delivered by Senator Wagner of New York.

New York Republicans of the Old Guard persuasion scored a decisive victory over Senator Borah in the primaries, and the Empire state delegation to Cleveland will be pledged to any candidate. The triumph of the conservatives was complete. Not only were the Borah candidates defeated in nine congressional districts in which they made contests, but the organization candidates for delegates defeated independent candidates not pledged to Borah in three other districts.

Maine Democrats in their primary pledged ten convention votes to the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt.

The Kentucky state Republican convention instructed the four state delegates at large to vote for Gov. Alf M. Landon of Kansas for the Presidential nomination. This, with previous developments, assured Landon of 18 of the state's votes.

## Five Army Flyers Die in Crash of Bomber

DRIVEN far off its course by a storm, a twin-motored army bombing plane on its way from Cleveland to Langley Field, Va., crashed against the Blue mountains near Fredericksburg, Pa., in the night and its crew of five men all perished in the burning wreckage. The victims were Lieut. Stetson Brown, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Staff Sergt. Ernest Endy, Oley, Pa.; Private Arthur Metz, Chambersburg, Pa.; Private William Yost, McKees Rocks, Pa.; Cadet Paul Ampspough, Cleveland, Ohio.

The crash would have been avoided if the plane had been 250 feet higher. A state highway patrolman who saw it said it appeared to be in trouble as it approached the mountain ridge.

It tore a wide path through the heavy timber as it struck, then dashed nose first into a steep cliff, where the mountain falls sharply away in a 75-foot drop. Near-by residents heard it, but before they could get to the scene the plane was afire, its front buried in the ground, its tail caught in a tree.