

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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Municipal Bankruptcy Act Held Invalid

FIVE justices of the United States Supreme court held invalid the municipal bankruptcy act of 1934, declaring it to be an unwarranted invasion of state sovereignty. Four justices dissented, these being Chief Justice Hughes and Justices Stone, Brandeis and Cardozo. The majority opinion was written by Justice James C. McReynolds. The case was brought by bondholders of a water improvement district in Texas.

The municipal bankruptcy act was designed to permit cities and other political subdivision which found themselves in financial straits to effect a composition, with the approval of two-thirds of the bondholders or other creditors, whereby the indebtedness could be readjusted, scaled down, or, as Mr. Justice McReynolds put it, "repudiated."

Frank Lowden May Be Republican Nominee

FRANK O. LOWDEN of Illinois will be the choice of the Republican convention for President if he will accept the nomination.



Frank O. Lowden

That was the confident prediction of a political observer who is usually well informed and close to sources of national party news. He declared there was a steadily growing demand from many parts of the Union for the nomination of the former governor of Illinois, who always has been popular with farmers and whose qualities of statesmanship are recognized generally throughout the country. Mr. Lowden is vigorous and hale, and he is always actively interested in the welfare of his state and nation, especially in the problems of the agriculturist.

Landon Has Large Block of Delegates

GOV. ALF LANDON captured nearly all the New Jersey delegates to the national convention, defeating Senator Borah about 4 to 1 in the popular vote. This victory gave the Kansan a total of more than 200 votes to start with at Cleveland, and his manager, John Hamilton, claimed he would have at least 900 of the 501 votes necessary to nominate and would win on the second or third ballot.

The statement by Herbert Hoover taking himself out of consideration for the nomination is generally judged to have helped Landon. With Mr. Hoover out of the picture it will be difficult to hold California, Texas, and other potentially Hoover votes away from Landon.

James A. Farley, postmaster general and also Democratic national chairman, told the Michigan Democratic convention he believed the Republican Presidential nominee will be "the governor of a typical prairie state" and that his election, if he won, would be a "perilous experiment." Farley criticized the man he did not name as devoid of experience in national affairs, and predicted that if he is the Republican standard bearer "even Kansas" will not be in the Roosevelt doubtful column.

Norman Thomas Nominated by the Socialists

FOR the third time Norman Thomas is the Presidential nominee of the Socialist party. He was selected at the national convention in Cleveland, Ohio, and George Nelson of Wisconsin was put in second place on the ticket. There was a great demonstration after the voice vote, but it was not joined in by

the right wing leaders from several eastern states who were angered by the seating of a leftist delegation from New York. The disaffected ones threatened to form another party. The convention flatly turned down a proposal from Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist party, for a "united front" in the 1936 campaign.

Plan to Continue Rail Co-Ordinator's Office

THE office of transportation co-ordinator, held by Joseph B. Eastman, is due to expire on June 16, but Senator Wheeler of Montana had ready for introduction a resolution extending it for two years, and President Roosevelt was on record as approving some of its activities.



J. B. Eastman

It was reported in Washington that railway management and labor, both of which have opposed some of Eastman's doings in the past, might unite in an effort to block extension of the office, but Eastman said he had heard "nothing substantial" on that line.

Eastman announced last February he would exercise his powers to compel railroads in 11 cities to carry out terminal unifications as economy and efficiency moves. He withheld the orders at the suggestion of President Roosevelt, however, to permit rail management and labor to agree on some plan of protection for employees thrown out of work in such consolidations.

Bonus Baby Bonds Will Be Mailed June 15

ON JUNE 15 the bonus baby bonds will be mailed to 45,000 post offices from Washington and from the eleven federal reserve centers. Final plans for delivering the bonds to the veterans were announced by Postmaster General Farley, who predicted that payment on a great majority of them would be made within one week.

Mail carriers have been given instructions to "go out of their way wherever necessary with a view to effecting delivery," Farley said. The bond packets must be delivered to the veteran in person, and not to another person or firm at the veteran's address.

"If it is impossible to locate the veteran to whom the bonds are addressed," Farley continued, "they will be held for 30 days at the post office of destination before being returned to the respective federal centers and thence to the Treasury department."

The bonds will be in \$50 denominations with accompanying checks to cover the odd amounts. To collect cash, the veteran must have his bonds certified through his local post office.

Post offices in 241 cities have been designated as paying centers for their districts, and 59 large city offices have been empowered to pay on bonds issued outside their own districts.

Socialists Gain Control of Belgian Parliament

SOCIALISTS of Belgium, like those of France, won a considerable victory in the parliamentary elections, holding a larger number of seats than any other group. Emile Vandervelde, their seventy-year-old leader, was thus in position to succeed Paul Van Zeeland as premier.

The new party of Rexists, whose political emblem is a cardboard broom, symbolizing determination to "sweep banksters and politico-financiers out of office," recorded sensational successes, winning 21

seats, mainly at the expense of conservative Catholics.

Official standings, subject possibly to slight revision, gave: Socialists, 70; Catholics, 63; Liberals, 23; Rexists, 21; Flemish Nationals, 16; Communists, 9.

Congress Hopes It Can Adjourn June 6

DEMOCRATIC and Republican leaders in congress sought unitedly to get through the necessary business so that the lawmakers might adjourn on June 6. The house had finished its work and was waiting for the senate to act on the relief and tax measures. The committees had so revised those bills that it was thought opposition would be greatly lessened.

Senator Harrison's finance committee contrived a tax bill estimated to produce \$626,000,000 in new permanent revenue, which is \$6,000,000 more than the President asked for. Tentatively the committee agreed to levy a processing tax of one-half cent per pound on sugar, which would yield \$66,000,000, and to retain a provision of the house bill designed to induce liquidation of corporations and bring in \$33,000,000 in additional income taxes. There was a prospect of adding still another \$40,000,000 to the permanent revenue by removing the existing \$40,000 estate tax exemption on estates of \$100,000 or more.

This would make a total of \$696,000,000 in new permanent revenue, \$46,000,000 more than that of the house bill, but the senate bill also included \$100,000,000 in temporary revenue from the so-called "wind-fall" provision to confiscate unpaid and refunded processing taxes, and retained the \$168,000,000 now produced by the excess profits and capital stock taxes. The latter item must be included because the President's plan had contemplated repeal of these taxes. With their inclusion the senate bill would approximate \$934,000,000 as compared with the so-called \$803,000,000 measure passed by the house.

Dr. Townsend Disgusted With Inquiry

FOR two days Dr. Francis E. Townsend replied mildly to the questions of the house committee investigating the activities of the



Dr. F. E. Townsend.

organization behind the old age pension movement which the doctor started. Then the Californian lost his patience suddenly, refused to answer any more "nonsensical" queries, spoke of "thick-headed congressmen," denounced the committee for its "unfriendly attitude" and asserted the administration was a "hostile force" behind the inquiry. He declared he would form a third party after the November elections.

Finally Doctor Townsend told the committee: "I am retiring from this sort of inquisition and I do not propose to come back except under arrest. And I do refuse absolutely to make any further statement regarding this movement to this committee."

Escorted by Gerald K. Smith, former adherent of Huey Long, and another man, the Californian fled from Washington to Baltimore. The committee decided to ask the house to cite him for contempt.

When he was questioned regarding large sums contributed by Townsend club members the physician said the contributors had faith in him and that "we need millions to promote a movement of this kind and we will get them."

His testimony developed that Doctor Townsend, his brother, Walter Townsend and Gilmour Young own the assets of the Townsend organ-

ization, estimated now at about \$60,000, and that Townsend club members have no property right in them.

Doctor Townsend testified he has received about \$68,000 in salary, dividends from the Townsend weekly and expenses, but now had only about \$300 and his wife about \$200 to show for their efforts.

Gov. Lehman Won't Run for Re-Election

HERBERT H. LEHMAN announced suddenly in Albany that he would not be a candidate for a third term as governor of New York, saying: "I



Gov. Lehman

feel the time has come when I may ask release from the cares and responsibilities of the governorship." But leaders of the Democratic party, including President Roosevelt, National Chairman James A. Farley and Senators Wagner and Copeland undertook to persuade Mr. Lehman to run for re-election. They all agreed that his retirement would be a loss to the state and the party and that he should be "drafted."

The immediate political result of the governor's surprise action was that New York again became a doubtful state for the Presidential campaign, in the minds of many politicians. The morale of Republican leaders in the state improved, and Democrats began speculating as to which of a group of five or more candidates could be groomed for the gubernatorial nomination this fall if Lehman persisted in his determination.

Russia Will Maintain Big Far Eastern Fleet

CONVERSATIONS between Great Britain and Russia now going on in London will have to do only with naval armaments in European waters, for the Soviet government has announced that it cannot consider limitation of its far eastern fleet while there is no similar agreement binding Japan.

Speaking for the government, Karl Radek said in the newspaper Izvestia that the Soviet union has been striving to conclude a separate agreement with Japan, but thus far the efforts have been fruitless. Throwing the blame on the shoulders of Japan, the statement said the situation was a "direct result of the fact Tokyo broke the Washington agreement and abandoned the London conference."

Filene Quits United States Chamber of Commerce

EDWARD A. FILENE, Boston merchant, announced his withdrawal from the United States Chamber of Commerce, severely criticizing its failure "to study business in a business way" and to "substitute fact-finding research for opinion as a guide to decisions concerning the needs of business in general—even as opposed, possibly, to the ambitions of special interests."

Mr. Filene has been a consistent supporter of President Roosevelt's administration, and the Chamber of Commerce has been increasingly critical of the New Deal.

Italy Celebrates Entry Into World War

ITALIANS celebrated the anniversary of their country's entrance into the World war with imposing ceremonies that included the promotion of more than half a million boys and girls in the organizations of young Fascists. Premier Mussolini presided over the "graduation," and after reviewing a great military parade, the Duce told the shouting crowds:

"The spectacle of the force of youth exhibited this morning on the

anniversary of our intervention in the World war, the first phase of the Fascist revolution, is magnificent and a warning to the young armies of tomorrow in the defense of the empire. Since the Fascist revolution, Italy will be invincible. This is the preme will of the whole Italian people."

While his conqueror was engaged, Haile Selassie, deposed emperor of Ethiopia, was exiled at Halfa, Palestine, for England the British destroyer Capetown. Two sons and a daughter accompanied him, but former Emperor Menen remained at Jerusalem, exiled monarch, after a visit to land, intends to go to Paris to stiffen French resistance to the League of Nations. He succeeded in this, for the Italian Socialist regime in France will endeavor to restore the league's tige.

Japan Has New Leader in North China

JAPANESE penetration in North China is now being managed by a Buddhist scholar, Major Gen. Kenji Dohara. The new will co-operate with the emperor of the North China government, placing the thousands of residents that have been arrested in Tientsin, and also he doubts continue the undercover political maneuvering begun by Dohara.

According to the Chinese, Matsumuro's duties will be to prepare the way for a return to the throne of Henry Pu-Yi, now Emperor Kang Teh of Manchukuo, to the China's dragon throne. He will assert the Japanese plan to establish their rulership over all North China and Manchukuo.

Leon Blum Is the Idol of the French Reds

LEON BLUM, elderly and fragile leader of the French Socialists, will soon be premier of the country, and he is going to be a hard time for the expectations of all the millions who are making national heroes of him. The other hundreds of thousands of French reds and pinkies marched behind Blum or cheering on the lines, and pictures of the leader were carried in the ranks of soldiers hawks in the crowds. This was the occasion of the traditional memorial ceremony in Pere Lachaise cemetery for the Marxist martyrs of the Paris Commune in 1871.

M. Blum is said to be widely closely his publicity in the United States since his speech in which he intimated a desire to agree on Washington on the elimination of war debt discussions. He is expected to be able to obtain loans from New York bankers. The Japanese law is naturally an insurmountable obstacle to France's obtaining any kind of credit in America, but the Paris Midi pointed out that went out of his way to declare that France has not forgotten the debt and fully expects to bring up for discussion some time in the future.

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President's Mother Is Injured by Fall

MRS. SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT, aged mother of the President, fell while on a visit to New York some days ago and was laid up at Hyde Park with an expected hip and cracked bone. The made light of the injuries but Roosevelt was gravely concerned. He spent the week-end with his mother.