

# Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

## 74th Congress Adjourns After a Long Session

THE Seventy-fourth congress adjourned after a session lasting five and a half months during which it appropriated nearly \$10,000,000,000 and was faced by some unexpected legislative complications.

In the closing hours the emergency tax bill which is expected to produce \$800,000,000 in revenue was passed. Supreme court invalidation of the AAA and Guffey coal bills and the passage of the cash soldiers' bonus over the President's veto upset the budget plans and made such a bill necessary.

Although it was passed by the house, the amended Guffey coal bill designed to remove the objections of the Supreme court failed of passage in the senate. Similarly, the Wagner slum housing bill, which had passed the senate, failed in the house.

Larger than normal appropriations for governmental activities were passed. The bonus, farm payments, relief and the greatest national defense program in peace time history helped swell the total.

Funds for continuing the present relief program were voted; the public works revolving fund was amended to permit more heavy construction projects. But congress failed to approve the Florida ship canal and Passamaquoddy tide dam.

Invalidation of the AAA brought a revised and expanded soil conservation and domestic allotment act; the rural electrification administration and electric farm and home authority were both placed on a permanent basis; the Commodity Credit corporation was expanded; two flood control bills were passed. Labor received attention through the Walsh-Healy bill dealing with working conditions on government contracts. A compromise ship subsidy bill was rushed through in the closing hours. Financial legislation included expansion of the jurisdiction of SEC. Important among business legislation was the Patman bill amending the Clayton anti-trust act regarding price discrimination.

A number of important bills failed of enactment. Among these were the Pettingill long and short hauls bill, stockyard regulation, Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage bill, and bills on the 30-hour week, extension of the railroad co-ordinator's tenure, anti-war profits, alien deportation, enlargement of the federal trade commission's power and treasury agency service.

## Smith Asks Roosevelt "Be Put Aside"

CALLING upon the delegates to the Democratic national convention to "put aside Franklin D. Roosevelt" and to nominate "some genuine Democrat" for President, former Gov. Alfred E. Smith and four other anti-administration Democrats charged the New Deal with failure.

The demand came in the form of a telegram and was signed by Smith, Bainbridge Colby, secretary of state under President Wilson, James A. Reed, former senator from Missouri, Joseph B. Ely, former governor of Massachusetts, and Daniel F. Coahalan, former justice of the Supreme court of New York.

Former Governor Smith and his colleagues indicated that they will not support President Roosevelt in the forthcoming Presidential campaign, fulfilling Smith's previous threat to "take a walk."

Pro-Roosevelt delegates from every section of the country prepared for a concerted attack upon the "bolters."

Gov. Herbert Lehman of New



Al Smith

York turned his back upon Mr. Smith and predicted President Roosevelt would carry New York by a substantial majority in November. He declared:

"I have read the statement. I am confident that the views expressed by the five signers of statement represent the feelings of only a handful of Democrats.

"The great rank and file of the party as well as the majority of the independents of the country stand four-square behind the policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt."

## Rep. Lemke Will Be Presidential Candidate

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM R. LEMKE of North Dakota announced that he would run for the Presidency as candidate of a new political group known as the Union party. Father Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit priest, is the leading sponsor of Lemke's candidacy.



Rep. Lemke

Thomas Charles O'Brien of Boston will be the vice-presidential candidate on the ticket, it was announced.

Mr. Lemke made public a 15-point platform embodying demands for refinancing of farm mortgages, old age security, a living wage for all workers, limitation on individual incomes, the establishment of a central bank, the issuance by congress of all currency and its regulation of the value of all the money.

Plans were made for the new party to hold a national convention some time during August in Cleveland.

Mr. Lemke said the Union party has the support of farm unions, labor, the National Union for Social Justice established by Father Coughlin, the Townsend old age pension movement and "all other liberals who have been driven from the old parties."

Mr. Lemke was co-author with Senator Lynn J. Frazier of North Dakota of a \$3,000,000,000 farm mortgage refinancing bill defeated in the house of representatives.

## Death Taxes von Buelow Noted German Diplomat

THE death of Bernhard W. von Buelow, secretary of state for foreign affairs in the Hitler cabinet, removed one of the most skilled of Europe's diplomats. Von Buelow, who was fifty-one, was an expert on the League of Nations and gave his country valuable counsel when Germany began to consider rejoining the league. He was noted as a studious and hard-working official, with a vast amount of detailed information always readily available.

A "blueblood" of the German nobility, the diplomat was a nephew of the late Prince Bernhard von Buelow, imperial chancellor. He was one of the first of the German nobles to associate himself with the republican regime after the collapse of the empire in 1918. Although different in background from Hitler, he nevertheless enjoyed the chancellor's confidence.

In diplomatic circles it was regarded as likely that Dr. Hans Dieckhoff, chief of the political department of the foreign office, will succeed Buelow as secretary of state.

In Russia, Maxim Gorky, early foe of the czars who became a hero of the Soviet regime and its outstanding writer, died of influenza at the age of sixty-eight. Although not a member of the Communist party, Gorky had a preeminent position in Soviet life and was a former member of the central executive committee. Moscow honored him with a public funeral and interment in the Kremlin in a niche facing Lenin's tomb.

Under the czars, Gorky was jailed on many occasions for his inflammatory writings. His revolutionary attitude was expressed in his pen name. Maxim Gorky means "The Bitter One" in Russian. The author was considered Soviet Russia's greatest propagandist. His real name was Alexis Maximovitch Pyeshkov.

## Packers Seek Recovery of All Processing Taxes

A BATTLE to recover all the processing taxes paid to the government under the invalidated AAA was undertaken by the "big four" of the packing industry—Swift and Company, Armour and Company, Wilson and Company and the Cudahy Packing company. Having won back \$45,000,000 when the AAA was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme court the packing industry has decided to attempt to recover from the government more than \$200,000,000 paid before injunctions against the tax were granted and subsequent payments impounded.

The meat packing industry as a whole paid a total of \$271,000,000 in processing taxes from the inception of the AAA. The packers are basing their claims for recovery on the ground that as the Supreme court ruled the processing taxes invalid, payments made in accordance with that law were illegally collected and should be returned. It was reported that smaller packing companies were considering action to recover their tax payments, but have waited until the major units in the industry instituted their proceedings. The total in tax recoveries sought by the four big Chicago companies is approximately \$100,000,000.

## U. S. Revokes Sanctions Imposed on Italy

FOLLOWING the lead of Great Britain, the United States formally revoked all sanctions imposed against Italy during the recent Italo-Ethiopian conflict.

A proclamation by President Roosevelt declared all previous communications dealing with the sale of munitions of war, loans and travel by Americans on Italian ships was revoked.

Although the sanctions were against both Italy and Ethiopia, in practical application they were used only against Italy, since the United States did not supply the African nation with any war materials and the empire of Haile Selassie had no ships of its own.

The French cabinet agreed to abide by any action which the League of Nations may take in cancelling sanctions against Italy.

The British government's decision to abandon sanctions was defended in an address by Prime Minister Baldwin as the only alternative which would prevent a suicidal war plunging western civilization into "barbarous anarchy."

Baldwin asserted: "We think it is right to drop sanctions because they are useless and ineffective.

"There is only one way to alter the course of events as they have thus far taken place. That is by going to war.

"I do not know a single nation in Europe that is prepared for that. I would not cast my vote for that course of action."

## Far-East Situation Reaches Grave Crisis

THE situation in the Far East reached a graver crisis. Friction between Japan and China became more intense when it was reported that a Chinese customs cruiser had fired upon a Japanese

ship, off the harbor of Chikou, Hopel province.

At the same time foreign residents of Peiping were amazed at the spectacle of 3,000 Japanese troops in full war regalia parading through the legation quarter. While Japanese officers declined to explain the unprecedented influx of troops, observers declared that the soldiers were from nearby Tungchow and Fengtai. Not since the Boxer rebellion of 1900 had so many foreign soldiers entered the ancient former capital of China.

The menace of civil war increased when Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, dictator of the Central China government at Nanking, delivered an ultimatum to the insurgent Kwangsi province leaders.

## Republicans Make Plans for Coming Campaign

IN TOPEKA, Kan., Gov. Alfred M. Landon, Republican nominee for the Presidency, met Col. Frank Knox, Vice Presidential nominee,



John Hamilton

and Chairman John Hamilton and members of the executive committee of the Republican national committee to make plans for the coming campaign.

Speaking itineraries for Governor Landon and Colonel Knox were discussed as well as other campaign strategy.

Youth is definitely represented in the reorganized personnel of the executive committee which will chart the Republican course. Hamilton, the new chairman, is forty-four. The youngest member, Robert P. Burroughs of Manchester, N. H., is thirty-six. Seven new members attended the meeting, including Burroughs; Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., North Attleboro, Mass.; J. Will Taylor, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mrs. Horace Sayre, Ardmore, Okla.; Mrs. John Wyeth, St. Joseph, Mo.; Ezra Whitla, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and Earl Warren, Oakland, Calif. Members returned to the committee are: Charles D. Hilles, New York; Harrison E. Spangler, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; R. B. Creager, Brownsville, Texas; Mrs. Bertha Baur, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Paul Fitzsimmons, Newport, R. I.; Walter S. Hallahan, Charleston, W. Va.; and George Ball, Muncie, Ind.

In the reorganization of the committee, Hamilton traded posts with Henry P. Fletcher, who took over the job of counsel for the committee. C. B. Goodspeed of Chicago succeeded George F. Getz as treasurer. The other committee officers include four vice chairmen: Ralph E. Williams, Oregon; J. Henry Roraback, Connecticut; Mrs. John E. Hillman, Colorado; and Mrs. James Worthington, Pennsylvania.

## International Conference on Mediterranean Problems

A GENERAL review of the naval and military problems in the Mediterranean loomed as the result of Turkey's request to fortify the Dardanelles. Meeting in Montreux, Switzerland, delegates from Great Britain, France, Italy, Turkey, Japan, Greece and Yugoslavia indicated they would lay before an international conference the objectives in which their nations are interested.

It was reported that Great Britain was considering presentation of a mutual assistance naval pact in the Mediterranean, providing for Italy's participation. Should such a step be taken, it would extend a series of such pacts which were concluded between Britain and France, Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey against Italy at the time sanctions were imposed on Il Duce.

It was believed that Japan would seek liberation from the clause of the Lausanne agreement by which she, with Great Britain, France and Italy, guaranteed freedom of the

Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus.

Russia was expected to abstain on the passage of warships in the Black sea, while demanding the right of Soviet fighting vessels and submarines to come into the Mediterranean, in the event she engaged in war.

## Farm Income Sharply Up In Year's First Quarter

FARM cash income from marketing in the United States amounted to \$2,017,000,000 in the first four months of 1938, compared with 749,000,000 last year, an increase of 15.3 per cent, according to a publication issued by the Agricultural Hamilton institute.

The institute's figures show that the price level during the first four months was 2.3 per cent lower than a year ago, but the quantity marketed showed an increase of 18.1 per cent.

For the first four months of the total farm cash incomes amounted to \$2,079,000,000 as against \$1,000,000,000 last year, an increase of only 5.5 per cent. However, the institute says, the farmers' purchasing power was actually 10 per cent higher than it was a year ago due to the lower prices for goods which the farmers bought.

## Senator Fletcher of Florida Passes Away

DEATH "in the harness" came to Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, dean of the senate, who had represented Florida in the upper house for the last quarter of a century.

He died suddenly at his home in Washington. Senator Fletcher, a strong supporter of the Roosevelt administration although he was considered a conservative, was chairman of the banking and currency committee which bore the brunt of the task involved in the currency reform legislation and the banking act of 1935.

President Roosevelt, in a statement eulogizing the senator, said "the country has lost an able and conscientious servant in the death of Senator Fletcher." He declared the Floridian "was ever actuated by motives of high patriotism and by selfish devotion to the public welfare."

The death of Senator Fletcher followed closely the passing of Senator Park Trammel of Florida and the death of Speaker Joseph P. Byrns of Tennessee.

Senator Fletcher was born in Sumter county, Georgia, January 1859. He was graduated from Vanderbilt university in 1880 and began the practice of law in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1881. He was elected to the United States senate in 1908 and had been renominated and re-elected in each subsequent term.

While no movement had been undertaken to select his successor as chairman of the important banking and currency committee, it was in Washington circles that Senator Carter Glass, senate veteran, Virginia Democrat, wartime secretary of the treasury and staunch political standard advocate, was in line for the post. Although a critic of some of the President's policies, Senator Glass has never gone far off the reservation of party regularity.

## Veterans Get Their Bonus Bonds and Checks

BONUS bonds and checks distributed to veterans of the World War throughout the United States spurred the tempo of business buying was given a fresh impetus. Retail merchants, department stores, automobile companies and housing construction enterprises were expected to benefit most from the bonus payments.

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