

# Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
© Western Newspaper Union.

## President Roosevelt Is Renominated by Acclaim

**P**RESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT was renominated by unanimous acclaim by the Democratic National convention in Philadelphia, receiving the convention's entire 1,100 votes on the first ballot. Vice President John N. Garner was likewise renominated for that position by acclaim.

At a great public massmeeting in Franklin field, Philadelphia, attended by 110,000 people on the evening of the convention's adjournment, President Roosevelt and Vice President Garner were officially notified of their selection and responded with acceptance speeches.

The President sounded the battlecry of his campaign for re-election by denouncing "economic royalists who hide behind the American flag and Constitution."



President Roosevelt

The convention unanimously adopted a strong New Deal platform and voted the abolition of the historic two-thirds rule.

The sessions were marked with extreme enthusiasm. Party harmony and a determination to stand militantly on the administration's record in the past three years and present a united front in the coming campaign characterized the convention.

The abolition of the two-thirds rule for the nomination of candidates was one of the significant achievements. This rule, which had been in use for more than 100 years, was superseded by the adoption of the rules committee's report recommending that at future conventions only a bare majority be required for nomination. While some southern and the eastern and western states opposed abrogation, they were reconciled to it by the committee's recommendation that changes be made in the apportionment of delegates.

The platform pledged continuance of soil conservation, benefit payments to farmers, a sound currency, a balanced budget and a constitutional amendment if necessary, to achieve the party's broad social program. It praised the accomplishments of the New Deal in a preamble, declaring that it planned to continue them in the interest of the nation. The platform's keynote was that the Roosevelt administration has put and will keep the nation "on the road to recovery and prosperity."

Regarding the Constitution, the platform declared that while the Republican platform proposes to meet national problems by action of the separate states, the Democratic party recognizes that minimum wages, maximum hours, child labor, monopolistic and unfair business practices, dust storms, drouth and floods could not be handled by states. It stated:

"If these problems cannot be effectively solved by legislation within the Constitution, we shall seek such clarifying amendments as will assume to the legislatures of the several states and to the congress of the United States each within its proper jurisdiction, the power to enact those laws which the state and federal legislatures within their respective spheres shall find necessary, in order adequately to regulate commerce, protect public health and safety and safeguard economic security. Thus we propose to maintain the letter and spirit of the Constitution."

In addition to soil conservation and benefit payments, the farm plank pledged the Democrats to financing share-croppers and tenants in buying lands; favored commodity loans on farm surpluses and re-

tirement of ten million acres of submarginal land from production and rural rehabilitation.

Reiterating the "good neighbor" policy, the foreign relations plank reaffirmed the party's neutrality program pledged to keep the nation out of foreign entanglements. It reasserted the reciprocal farm policy, but demanded "adequate" protection to farmers and manufacturers against unfair foreign competition.

Denouncing monopolies and concentration of economic power, the platform declared that the administration would "vigorously and fearlessly enforce the criminal and civil provisions of the existing anti-trust laws."

Other planks pledged: Expansion of the social security program; continuance of rural electrification; protection of the rights of labor to bargain collectively; extension of federal housing projects; just treatment of war extension of the merit system through classified civil service; freedom of speech, press, radio, religion and assembly; projection of public works projects to aid unemployment; opposition to Communism and "the menace of concealed Fascism."

## Railway Pension Acts Declared Unconstitutional

**P**ENSIONS for railway workers received a setback when the District of Columbia Supreme court ruled unconstitutional two acts passed by congress last year.

The court held that the government had no right to levy or collect taxes to finance the rail pensions and invalidated as "inseparable" a companion tax measure providing for payment of the pensions.

Both acts were passed last year under the sponsorship of the administration and with the support of railway labor leaders after the United States Supreme court had held unconstitutional the 1934 railway retirement act. They were designed to meet the high court's objections.

One of the measures involved levies upon railroads an excise tax of three and one-half per cent "of the compensation not in excess of \$300 per month paid to its employees." Workers would have paid a three and one-half per cent income tax upon their wages not in excess of \$300 per month. The money thus collected would go into a pension fund. The other act established the retirement system for employees at the age of sixty-five, with pensions ranging up to \$120 per month.

## Farm Income Up 90 Per Cent, A. A. Report Sets Forth

**A**N INCREASE of 90 per cent in the cash farm income on cotton, wheat, tobacco, corn and hogs from 1932 to 1935 was recorded under the Agricultural Adjustment act, invalidated by the Supreme court last January, according to the annual report of Chester C. Davis, former administrator, made public in Washington.



Chester Davis

Cash farm income from these five major farm products which came under production control, rental and benefit payments was \$1,365,000,000 in 1932, the year before the AAA became operative. For 1935 it was \$2,593,000,000.

The report pointed out that cash farm income from all other products increased in the same period from \$3,012,000,000 to \$4,307,000,000.

Mr. Davis, who was recently appointed by President Roosevelt to the Federal Reserve board, de-

clared that cash available for living expenses, taxes and interest from farm cash income was the highest in 1935 since 1929, and two and one-half times greater than it was in 1932.

Under the AAA, the report sets forth, rental and benefit payments accounted for one-fourth of the increase in all cash farm income from \$4,377,000,000 in 1932 to \$6,900,000,000 in 1935. Mr. Davis' report concludes:

"Increased buying power among farmers has been translated into increased business activity, and as in the case of past depressions, that measure of business recovery already achieved has been preceded by an advance in farm income.

"Income circulates more freely as spending is made possible among those consumer groups whose need for goods is particularly great. For a period of years prior to the depression farmers had suffered a disparity of prices which returned them a relatively small share of the national income. During the depression this disparity increased. An enormous accumulation of farmer wants was dammed up. This deferred demand awaited an increased flow of income."

The agricultural administration, the report revealed, had disbursed \$1,529,114,060 up to December 31, 1935.

## Gov. Landon Makes Plans for Notification Speech

**I**N ESTES PARK, Colo., Gov. Alfred M. Landon, Republican Presidential nominee, continued his vacation begun with his family the week before and made plans for reconvening of the Kansas legislature and for the acceptance speech he will deliver in Topeka on July 23.



Gov. Landon

Although Governor Landon was resting preparatory to the rigors of the campaign, affairs of his state and conferences with political advisers occupied considerable of his attention.

When the Kansas legislature reconvenes a proposed amendment to the state constitution will be introduced, giving the state broad power to provide far-reaching legislation for social welfare and to cooperate with the federal government. Governor Landon was quoted as describing the proposed amendment as "satisfactory."

The amendment, which may be the basis for similar action in other states, reads:

"Nothing contained in this constitution shall be construed to limit the power of the legislature to enact laws providing for financial assistance to aid infirm or dependent persons; for the public health; unemployment compensation and general social security and providing for the payment thereof by tax or otherwise and to receive aid from the federal government therefor."

Charles P. Taft and Ralph W. Robey, two members of his research and advisory staff, were scheduled to join the Republican Presidential nominee and to provide him with further data for the notification ceremony speech—the first major political statement since his Cleveland nomination.

In the meantime, John Hamilton, newly elected chairman of the Republican National committee, was on a tour of the East conferring with political leaders and laying lines for the party's strategy in the coming Presidential campaign.

## Strikes in Provinces Continue French Unrest

**P**ERSISTENCE of strikes in the provinces kept France in a state of unrest. A gain of 225,000 new members was reported by the gen-

eral confederation of labor, organized labor's official body.

Altogether it was estimated that 100,000 workers were still absent from their jobs, in spite of reports of strike settlements in scattered sections throughout the country.

The French Riviera witnessed a general exodus of foreign tourists from 450 hotels and resorts following a lockout by the proprietors. The hotels were closed indefinitely after the employers declared they could not meet workers' demands for more pay and shorter hours. This retaliation by the owners against the threat of a workers' strike upset the summer tourist season, one of the most profitable to the French.

## Severe Drouth Damage Brings Federal Action

**W**ITH thousands of acres of spring wheat destroyed through drouth and with vast corn-growing regions threatened, the federal government undertook a comprehensive campaign to alleviate human distress and property loss, and stricken areas were placed in the hands of a special drouth committee by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, with instructions to proceed immediately with a plan of co-ordination.

Secretary Wallace named Jess W. Tapp, assistant agricultural adjustment administrator, as chairman of the committee. Four others appointed were: C. W. Warburton, director of the Agricultural Extension Service; Hugh H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation Service; A. G. Black, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; and W. F. Callender, assistant agricultural adjustment administrator. Joseph L. Bailey, assistant resettlement administrator, will also serve with the committee.

The committee's attention was turned immediately to drouth conditions and relief need in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming, but officials were watching anxiously the increasing drouth damage in South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and parts of Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas.

The work of six government agencies will be supervised and coordinated by the committee in its work on drouth relief. These are: the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Public Works Administration, the Federal Surplus Commodities corporation, the Rural Resettlement Administration, the Relief Administration, and Rural Rehabilitation and Soil Conservation Service.

## League of Nations Meets to Lift Sanctions

**W**HILE representatives of leading powers gathered in Geneva to lift League of Nations economic sanctions against Italy and the refugee emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia prepared to plead the cause of his nation's freedom, European statesmen considered the possibility of a reorganization and reformation of the League.



Haile Selassie

Observers agreed that while informal discussions on the League reformation would be held, it was probable that the question of reorganizing the international pact body would be postponed until the September assembly.

## Steel Industry Resists Drive for Unionization

**D**EFYING a drive to force unionization of its 500,000 workers, the steel industry in a strongly worded statement issued by the American Iron and Steel institute declared "it will oppose any attempt to compel its employees to join a union or pay tribute for the right to work."

Although the statement did not

mention him by name, it was regarded by observers as an official response to the announcement by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine workers of America, of a campaign to unionize steel employees.

In order to prevent the "shop," the industry said it would use its resources to the best ability to protect its employees and their families from intimidation, coercion and violence. It said it would aid them in maintaining their bargaining free from interference from any source."

The unionization attempt at the time when steel operations have set a new record for

Reasserting its belief in the principles of collective bargaining, the industry's statement pointed out that employees now pick their representatives for collective bargaining by secret ballot.

## REPRESENTATIVE W. LEMKE

of North Dakota announced that he would run for Presidency as candidate of a political group known as the Union party. Father Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit priest, is the leading sponsor of Lemke's candidacy. Thomas Charles O'Brien of Boston will be the vice-presidential candidate on the ticket, it was announced.

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

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

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

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

## International Conference Seeks Mediterranean Peace

**M**EETING in Montreux, Switzerland, an international conference sought settlement of military and naval problems in the Mediterranean. The conference had been called by the power as a result of Turkey's request to fortify the Dardanelles, which had been demilitarized under the League of Nations treaty of 1923.

The possible threat of a growing naval strength and the alignment of the British and Japanese navies in the Mediterranean. Japan announced it was willing to accept any limitations on Japanese warships authorized to enter the Black sea, providing similar restrictions were placed on Russian warships leaving it.

Russia demanded free passage of warships and submarines out of the Black sea through the Dardanelles, adding that it was unable to see why other nations should not bordering on this body of water desired unlimited passage. Because of her mutual assistance pact with the Soviet Union, France was expected to side with Russia.

The possibility of a mutual assistance pact in the Mediterranean with Britain leading to an armed conflict with Italy was a possibility which the conference was seeking to avert. Such a step would extend the series of such pacts which had been concluded between Britain, France, Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey against Italy at the time of the economic sanctions were im-