

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

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President Denounces War in Chautauqua Speech

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT was at his best as a radio orator when he addressed the summer camp at Chautauqua, N. Y., on foreign relations. He expressed his deep concern about tendencies in other parts of the world and spoke bitterly about the violation of both the letter and the spirit of international agreements "without regard to the simple principles of honor."



President Roosevelt

"Our closest neighbors," the President said. "If there are remoter nations that wish us not good but ill, they know that we are strong; they know that we can and will defend ourselves and defend our neighborhood."

Mr. Roosevelt said he had seen war on land and sea.

"I have seen blood running from the wounded," he said. "I have seen men coughing out their gassed lungs. I have seen the dead in the mud. I have seen cities destroyed. I have seen 200 limping, exhausted men come out of line—the survivors of a regiment of 1,000 who went forward forty-eight hours before. I have seen children starving. I have seen the agonies of mothers and wives. I hate war!"

Germans felt that Mr. Roosevelt's speech was aimed at them and resented his criticism. A Mexico City newspaper saw in it evidence that the Monroe doctrine was to be revived. The press of Buenos Aires warmly applauded the address, one journal saying:

"Without the intention of making a parallel between discourses recently heard from Rome or from Berlin and which proclaimed violence and expansion as the two sole aims of the modern states, we recommend reading this dignified and sincere Roosevelt speech, enabled by the spontaneity of human content and with which Roosevelt raised his figure above the stature of all dictators."

Wheat Supply Adequate, Says Federal Report

THERE is enough wheat in the United States for the usual domestic requirements of the season of 1936-37, according to the mid-summer report of the bureau of agricultural economics, but the supply of red spring wheat and durum is short and consequently importation of those varieties will be continued. The amount, however, will not be large, Secretary Wallace stated.

"It is probable the spring wheat mills in the 1936-37 season will use a larger percentage of hard red winter and Pacific northwest wheat than last year," said the report. "A larger than usual quantity of soft red winter wheat is also likely to be used in bread flour. As a result, imports of milling wheat may be less than in 1935."

Wheat prices in the United States may be expected to average about as high relative to world price levels as during the 1935-36 season, when the price of No. 2 hard winter at Kansas City was 15 cents over Liverpool, the bureau said. During the last three years short crops together with other influences resulted in wheat prices in the United States being maintained unusually high relative to the world market price.

"Farm prices probably have been 20 cents to 30 cents higher than might have been expected with more nearly normal yields in the United States," the report continued. "A return of average or greater than average yields in the United States would result in an export surplus and prices would adjust toward an export basis."

"The acreage seeded for the 1936 crop, 74,000,000 acres, was the sec-

ond largest in history, and seedings as large for the 1937 crop would produce fully enough wheat for total domestic utilization even if yields should turn out to be one-fourth below average."

Father Coughlin's Group Indorses Lemke

FOLLOWING the recommendation of Father Charles E. Coughlin, the National Union for Social Justice, in convention in Cleveland, indorsed the candidacy of Representative Lemke and O'Brien, heads of the Union party ticket. But, also on the advice of the priest, the Lemke platform was not indorsed. The 25,000 members of the N. U. S. J. present enthusiastically and unanimously elected Father Coughlin president of the organization. Lemke and O'Brien both appeared before the convention, delivered speeches and were given a rousing reception.

The final episode of the meeting of the Coughlinites was sensational. The militant priest was delivering a dramatic address before a vast throng in the Cleveland municipal stadium when suddenly he faltered, begged pardon and announced weakly that he could not finish because of illness. He was half carried to a car that hurried him to his hotel. There it was said his indisposition, due to the heat and overwork, was not serious, and next day he returned to Detroit.

Commodity Exchange Act Attacked in Court

AN EQUITY suit attacking the constitutionality of the commodity exchange act, chiefly on the ground that it seeks to regulate intrastate rather than interstate commerce in violation to the Constitution, was filed in the federal district court in Chicago.

The suit was instituted by William S. Moore, a member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and names the exchange, its board of directors, and the following as defendants: Henry A. Wallace, secretary of agriculture; Leslie A. Fitz, supervisor of the commodity exchange administration in Chicago; Daniel C. Roper, secretary of commerce; Homer S. Cummings, United States attorney general; Michael L. Igoe, United States district attorney of the northern Illinois district, and Ernest J. Kruetgen, Chicago postmaster.

In his petition Mr. Moore asked that the commodity exchange act be declared unconstitutional, void, and unenforceable.

San Sebastian Shelled, Hostages Are Slain

DISPATCHES from the French border said Spanish rebel warships finally had begun the long threatened bombardment of San Sebastian and Irun, and that the loyalists were carrying out the threatened execution of the 1,900 Fascist hostages they were holding there. The battleship Espana fired a lot of heavy shells toward Fort Guadalupe but for a time at least was apparently not trying to hit that stronghold because many of their sympathizers were held prisoners in the fort. The Guadalupe garrison was hesitant in returning the fire for fear that shells would fall on French territory. Already the French government was angered by the dropping of bombs on French border towns, though it was disputed whether they came from loyalist or rebel planes.

The Fascists captured the important town of Badajoz, near the Portuguese border, at the point of the bayonet, and were reported to have executed 1,500 government adher-

ents taken there. The rebels also reported a victory near Zaragoza after a bloody battle. General Franco met General Mola and "President" Virgilio Cabanellas at the northern rebel headquarters in Burgos and planned for further advances of their southern and northern columns on Madrid. These will be supplemented by 4,000 Moors and foreign legion veterans marching eastward from Badajoz.

United States Will Not Interfere in Spain

EFFORTS of European nations, notably France, to persuade the United States to join in a neutrality pact concerning the civil war in Spain are not likely to succeed. However it is the intention of our government not to interfere in the situation in any way whatsoever. Instructions to this effect were sent to all American representatives in Spain by William Phillips, acting secretary of state. While asserting that the American neutrality law prohibiting assistance to warring nations does not apply to the Spanish civil war, Mr. Phillips said that the United States intended to conform with its "well established policy of noninterference with internal affairs in other countries, either in time of peace or civil strife."



Wm. Phillips

Most of the nations invited to participate in the non-intervention agreement were willing, but Germany temporarily blocked the plan by announcing that its answer would be delayed until Madrid gave a satisfactory reply to German protests regarding the execution of four German nationals in Barcelona. France set August 17 as the deadline for completion of the agreement, and it was expected that, if general neutrality failed, the French government would lend aid to the Leftist government at Madrid.

American Ambassador Bowers abandoned his "floating embassy" aboard the coast guard cutter Cayuga and went ashore at St. Jean de Luz, France, by advice of the Department of State in Washington. According to the Army and Navy Journal, Mr. Bowers had tried to assume the role of commander of the American fleet in Spanish waters, and when the officers politely told him they took orders only from the Navy and Treasury departments or the President, he protested hotly to Washington, with the result recorded above. Meanwhile the embassy in Madrid has been in charge of Eric C. Wendelin, the young third secretary, who has handled its affairs skilfully and has evacuated most of the Americans from the city.

Migration From Drouth States Is Urged

DR. C. W. THORNTHWAITE, former climatologist of the University of Oklahoma, has made a study of the drouth area of the Great Plains, and his interesting conclusions are published by the University of Pennsylvania. Briefly, Thornthwaite recommends that 59,000 migrate from the farms of the damaged region. He contends that wind erosion has damaged 65 per cent of the plains region, extending from the Canadian border into the Texas panhandle. A long range government program for the return of millions of acres of wheat land to its native sod, he says, might be the only means of checking the devastating dust storms.

Observing that long dry spells have been frequent in the history of the plains, Thornthwaite predicts that "the present drouth might be prolonged for 20 or more years."

The weather expert estimates that a minimum of 12,610 families should move out of Montana, the state in which he reports the

greatest "surplus population." He urges a migration of 12,200 families from Texas and 7,360 from North Dakota. Heavy removals also are suggested for South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Borah and Robinson Are Renominated for Senate

TWO veterans of the senate, William E. Borah of Idaho, Republican, and Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas, Democrat and majority leader, won their fights for renomination without much difficulty. Borah defeated Byron Defenbach, who was backed by the Townsends. His Democratic opponent at the polls in November will be Gov. C. Ben Ross.

In the Presidential contest the American Federation of Labor, as an organization, will maintain its traditional non-partisan policy, according to the firm declaration of President William Green. The federation, said he, is not in the Non-Partisan Labor league, which is backing President Roosevelt. "We will not formally indorse any candidate this fall," Mr. Green continued. "Our non-partisan committee will merely prepare parallel reports on the labor records of the two chief candidates and of the platforms. We will send out all data to our membership. They will have to make up their own minds."

No New Taxes Promise for Coming Year

FOLLOWING a conference of President Roosevelt, Chairman Harrison of the senate finance committee, Chairman Doughton of the house ways and means committee and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, the administration's fiscal program for the coming year was thus outlined:

1. Assurance that no request will be made to the next congress for the levying of additional taxes or increase of present tax rates.
2. Launching of an immediate study by treasury and congressional tax consultants of present revenue laws as a basis for recommendations to the next congress for elimination of inequitable taxes, especially those unfair "to consumers or to trade."
3. Treasury assurance that "with continued recovery" the revenue yield is approaching the point where it will cover government costs and provide a surplus for reduction of the public debt.

Reds Waging War to Win America, Says Hobson

ADMIRAL RICHMOND P. HOBSON, now head of the Public Welfare association of New York, told the National Conference of Clergymen and Laymen at Asheville that Comintern, the international Communist propaganda agency, is waging "scientific warfare" to gain control of the United States. He said the board of strategy of his association, after exhaustive studies, has collected evidence that a competent Communist general staff has been at work and has succeeded to the extent of casting widespread doubt on the Constitution and bringing discredit on the Supreme court.

John A. Lyon, New York attorney and a leading Methodist layman, supported Admiral Hobson by citing the success of pacifism throughout Methodist youth organizations.

Railroads Seek Increase in Freight Rates

LEADING officials of Class I railroads, meeting in Washington, voted to petition the interstate commerce commission for an advance in freight rates to replace the temporary surcharges which expire at the end of this year, and to meet the rising expenses of the roads.

The petition also will ask the commission to give the railroads relief on the long and short haul clauses in the various commodity classifications.

AAA May Abandon Control of Grain Crops

OFFICIALS of the agricultural adjustment administration discussed in Washington the possibility of drastically reducing or moving altogether the planting restrictions on corn and wheat this year. No decision was made, but farmers will be consulted before any changes are ordered. However, definitely stated, wheat acreage will be expanded.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallingford, passing through Chicago on his way back from Iowa, said he believed government-controlled crop insurance would prevent wild price fluctuations in farm produce. The he said, has not progressed beyond the embryo stage, but probably would entail storage of crop government granaries. Each year, depending on the percentage of his normal crop he wished to insure, would make his "insurance" payments in the form of bushels to be stored in a common pool.

The plan, preventing "lean and fat years," would tend to stabilize market prices because it would assure a continual adequate supply of whatever commodity was to be insured. Gradually, he said, it might be worked out to include major farm produce.

Civil War Breaks Out Among Townsends

REBELLION among the Townsends, smoldering ever since their Cleveland convention, broken out into civil war. Dr. Francis Townsend has just been ousted from the organization of the eleven directors. Apparently the reason is that they are opposing President Roosevelt and Townsend's effort to swing followers to the support of Le-

The three men thrown out are Clinton Wunder, a former Baptist preacher, now living in New York; John B. Kiefer, Chicago regional director, and Maj. William Park, New York, eastern regional director.

In New York city Wunder out a written statement.

"I am fired," it read. "I objected to Dr. Townsend's Gerald Smith doing the very thing they now accuse me of. They sold the Townsend organization down the river to Coughlin Lemke."

"Townsend has consistently objected to the fact that Kiefer have insisted he give the ownership of his movement to the Townsends who pay his bill. Let the public as a jury decide the issue of this man Townsend who takes his third walk, and away from Kiefer and myself, only two leaders willing to be with him in walking out on the Board of Directors and therefore were cited in congress and now are in danger of indictment and imprisonment."

Commercial Failures Fewest Since 1920

FIGURES compiled by the Bradstreet for July show a decline in commercial failures to lowest figures since 1920, and a continuation of the rate of decline shown for the first week of August.

On the basis of an index kept by the agency since the end of July insolvencies were at the annual rate of 38.2 for each firm in business. It compared 44.6 in June and 52.8 in July. In January, 1933, as business heading for the banking holiday was above 170.

July failures numbered 638 and exceeded on the downward twice for the month since 1920, despite the growth of population and business in the meanwhile. It compared with 902 in the same month last year and 2,596 in July, around the peak of the depression liquidation movement.

For the year to August 6 failures totaled 6,157 against 7,355 corresponding 1935 months, a decline of 16.3 per cent.