

RELIEF

The Four billion, eight hundred million Work Relief Bill is finally out of the woods - the woods of the lower House. And now it goes to the forests of the Senate. It is to be presumed that the underbrush won't be so thick and tangled in the upper House as it was among the Representatives. Anyway the big bill is finally out of the jungle of lower House amendments. It pushed through the last maze of tree trunks and creepers today, when the House voted down the silver amendment tacked to the bill. This silver rider was an inflation idea, to which the President was opposed. So the immensity of work relief goes to the Senate in pretty much its pristine presidential form.

The fate of the bill seems so thoroughly assured now that there's a timely interest in the question - "Who's going to direct the spending of the Four billion, eight hundred million dollars?" And the answer seems to be - Tugwell, Hopkins and Peoples.

In that triumvirate of three names - the work relief Caesar, Pompey and Crassus - there are complications of certainty and doubt.

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The certainty seems to illuminate the Roman toga of Tugwell. It might have been expected that the work relief plan would be directed by Secretary of the Interior Ickes; but, it seems that such will not be the case. One most pertinent fact comes in the



announcement that Mr. Ickes will turn over the P.W.A. Soil Erosion Service to the Department of Agriculture. This service, which will fight dust storm and drought conditions in the west, carried with it the immediate spending of Twenty million dollars. And this is but the beginning of an ultimate Nine hundred million, which will be used in the labor of reforestation and other measures to conquer western aridity. The huge sum involved is twenty per cent of the total of the Work Relief Bill. It now goes to the Department of Agriculture ~~for~~ <sup>where</sup> Professor <sup>Rex</sup> Tugwell has such influential power. This is the basis of precise fact for the overwhelming belief in Washington that Tugwell will be in command of the giant work of farm rehabilitation. And further - that he will be the Number One man in the handling of the entire Work Relief Program. *Topa for Tugwell.*

Now about Number Two man. The ~~overwhelming~~ indications point to Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins. ~~He has particular relations to farm rehabilitation and drought fighting.~~ He's the one who originally suggested to the President the plans for moving families from ~~barren~~ bare subsistence land to better and more fertile fields. So that puts him logically in line to play a large hand in the farm rehabilitation program. *And,* as Federal Relief

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Administrator, he's a dominant figure in relief affairs right now. So the report is that he will be No. Two to Tugwell as generalissimo of the Four billion, eight hundred million.

It is to be noted, by the way, that Harry Hopkins accompanied the President on his trip south. Mr. Roosevelt arrived at Jacksonville today for his fishing trip aboard Vincent Astor's yacht "Nourmahal". And the Relief Administrator was on the train with him. He had taken the railroad journey south to discuss work relief problems with the chief executive.

Who will be the third member of the reported triumvirate? Probably Secretary of the Interior Ickes, but rumor also says maybe Admiral Christian Peoples, one of the business experts of the Navy.



WEATHER

There's a renewal of the dust storms in the west, and with the dust come such contradictory weather phenomenon as floods and snow-storms. Tornadoes, also.

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~~That~~ <sup>This week's</sup> dust storms are bad enough, but they're not so devastating as last week's sweep of the black storms. I imagine that there are few of us living outside of the dust storm region who can gather from a mere description of words, what a monstrous, glowering thing those dust storms really are. I've been working on Movietone news reel shots, showing the sweep of those winds loaded ~~with~~ black to huge height with pulverized soil. I could hardly believe it when I saw fields buried deep in the dust the storms had brought and the drifts of windblown earth piled high against houses, engulfing the land, drowning out the crops with the dry flood. And the afternoon sun a dim disc shining faintly through the dry fog. And weird, unearthly sunset effects, with the light playing among the angry billowing clouds of dust.

The head of the Department of Agriculture at Denver, Colorado, declares it has been the most devastating natural phenomenon in the history of this country. He declares thousands of acres of hitherto

fertile land, will be useless for at least a hundred years, unfit for grazing and farming. Because the widespread blanket of dust is so deep and so dry that it makes it a desert, with many long years needed to turn it into fertile ground.

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And then the melancholy reflective thought is suggested - will the time come when the heart of the North American continent will have turned into a desert, and the present great cities of the middlewest will be buried ruins? Will future explorers in some dim distant time search in an area of desolation and find the remains of great buildings and moldering manuscript - <sup>like</sup> ~~and~~ Sven Hedin's findings in Central Asia. Probably not - but it is something to muse upon.



fertile land, will be useless for at least a hundred years, unfit for grazing and farming. Because the wide-spread blanket of dust is so deep and so dry that it makes it a desert, with many long years needed to turn it into fertile ground.

But it seems that even a dust cloud has a silver lining.

Some sections say they've been benefited. From Missouri and Ohio, for example, there is word that the settling down of the clouds of wind blown soil has improved the farmland, acting as a threshing fertilizer. The storms have blown millions of tons of first rate Kansas agricultural land into Missouri. And they say the Missouri crops will be better in consequence.

In one of those dust storm sections, the danger is past - only to be succeeded by another danger. In Oklahoma rain has come to drench the dry pulverized earth - such a deluge of rain that it's causing floods. Rivers are swollen, surging over their banks, washing people out of house and home. And floods are reported in West Virginia too. A whole string of villages have been abandoned, threatened by the sweep of the flood waters.

In Idaho, Oregon and Washington, it's snow. A fall of

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fifteen inches is reported. Dust storms in some places, snowstorms in other places - and wind storms in still others. And tornadoes - in Illinois, Kentucky and North Carolina. Twisters are reported in various places, ripping along, tearing things up, doing hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of damage.



## GERMANY

It's hard to form any opinion about the news from Germany today since the conference of British Foreign Secretary Sir John Simon and Reichsfeuhrer Hitler ended only a few hours ago. The official statement given out as the Anglo-German conversations close is brief and formal and tells us little. But we can form some notion of what transpired.

The most obvious subjects of the discussion were these:-- German re-armament, German entrance into the League of Nations, Austria, and the Eastern Locarno.

Concerning the first, Hitler stuck to his re-armament guns. He explained to Sir John Simon the reasons why Germany's treaty violation should be permitted, even approved. The Germans advanced the thesis that a powerful armed Germany is a good thing for the rest of Europe as a bulwark against Bolshevism. The old story! So the word is "Nothing doing." Hitler merely told Sir John that Germany was willing to receive disarmament proposals -- disarmament for everybody.

On the second theme of discussion we have a definite statement. The former Allies had been eager all along to have

Germany return to the League of Nations. And Hitler in his talks with the foreign secretary agreed to this -- under a certain condition, an important condition. He promised that Germany would re-enter the League, but only when all other outstanding questions between Germany and the former Allies were settled. And these questions of course included -- German re-armament. Germany will not re-enter the League as long as there is any dispute about the big army she is building.

Another point:- In response to a question by Sir John Simon Hitler refused to guarantee the independence of Austria.

It's the Eastern Locarno that brings us to the most perilous point of all. That sounds like a rather abstract, abstruce term -- Eastern Locarno, until we stop to remember that Locarno is a town in Switzerland, that one of the famous post-war international conferences was held there, and that this resulted in a set of agreements known as the Locarno treaty. In it the nations of Western Europe agreed to keep peace among themselves, no aggressions. Now the idea is to extend the non-aggression idea to Eastern Europe -- hence the phrase Eastern Locarno.



One of Sir John Simon's proposals was that Hitler should agree to a non-aggression pact in the East. But the Reichsfuehrer refused. Instead, he gave Sir John some positive assurances:-

One was that Germany had no intention of attacking Soviet Russia. This takes us to reports we've heard for some time -- that Germany and Poland had come together in a rather dramatic sort of agreement. (The two countries have a common bone of contention in the Danzig corridor, the strip of territory that gives Poland access to the Baltic Sea and separates the bulk of Germany from the German province of Eastern Prussia.)

It was said that Poland was prepared to make concessions to Germany concerning the Danzig corridor, in return for which Germany was to help Poland reimburse herself at the expense of Russia, - in the Ukraine.

Last night we heard the declaration of Poland that she would not make any such arrangement. Tonight we hear that Hitler assured the British foreign secretary that Germany had no idea of any such aggression against Russia.

And the Reichsfuehrer gave Sir John a second reassurance concerning the town of Memel. This is a port on the Baltic Sea. It used to be a part of East Prussia but the Versailles Treaty gave it to the Republic of Lithuania.

But now we are told that Hitler assured his British guests that his government had no intention of recovering Memel, but he added a note of misgiving. He argued that Lithuania must respect the rights of minorities, meaning the rights of German minorities. For the people of Memel are mostly Germans, and Berlin claims that Lithuania has been bearing down hard on them.

Yes, and that was a note misgiving, and it swells more onimously with the news that immediately follows -- from Kovno, the Lithuanian capitol.

A Lithuanian court today sentenced four Nazis to death, four Germans of the city of Memel, members of a local German Nazi party, which has been agitating for the return of Memel to the Fatherland. This is part of the verdict that results from



a wholesale trial. Eighty-three were found guilty of plotting against Lithuania. Severe prison terms were handed out, and five death sentences. Among the men condemned to prison are some of the most prominent local German leaders, aristocrats, and former high officials. The four doomed to death were found guilty of killing a man who had been a member of the Nazi organization in Memel, a man who had switched over and given the Lithuanian government information about Nazi activity.

If the sentences are executed a wave of anger will sweep Germany. Already Berlin officialdom is fuming with rage.

It all gives point - dramatic point to Hitler's declaration to Sir John Simon about the rights of the German minority in Lithuania.

IRELAND

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There are two bits of news from Ireland today. One is - the Sweepstakes. The drawings were held in that immense game of chance. As usual, there are stories about all sorts of poor people lucky enough to find themselves with tickets on the favorites.

The second dispatch from Dublin is of a different tenor. Police raids, political arrests. Seventy members of the extremist Republican groups have been seized, meeting rooms of the anti-government party, searched by the police. Among the prisoners are authors, editors and lawyers, members of the Dublin intelligentsia.

The campaign of political police activity comes as the result of the recent shootings of two policemen. The government blames politics for the shootings, and the <sup>raids</sup> on the extreme Republicans show where the suspicion lies.



MRS. ROOSEVELT

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I have a lot of awe-stricken respect for President Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California, but I would never attempt to follow the brave Prexy's example. When the ladies start having a few hostilities, the prudent place for a man is as far away as possible. For that reason I'm a bit nervous as I even mention that row between Mrs. Roosevelt, First Lady of the Land, Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, and Miss Martha Ijams of California. Heroic university presidents may have the hardihood to jump into a war between the ladies, but a mere radio news commentator is much too meek and mild for that.

So I'm a bit tremulous as I remark that Miss Ijams, who is a graduate of the University of California, resented the fact that her Alma Mater asked Miss Perkins to come out and make an address. She refused to take part as a hostess at a luncheon to the lady cabinet member. She doesn't approve of Madame, the Secretary of Labor, and she proceeded to hand out a piece of her mind with emphatic vigor.

At this point Mrs. Roosevelt entered the fray. She said that Miss Ijams tried to snub Miss Perkins, but couldn't do it. And the First Lady elucidated this by giving her definition of a snub. "A snub", she explained, "is an effort of a person who feels superior

to make someone else feel inferior. To do this it is necessary first to find someone who could be made to feel inferior. Miss Perkins was not such a one", opined Mrs. Roosevelt.

My nerves are getting shakier and shakier as I come to Miss Ijams' retort. "I have nothing but contempt for her", she cooed. "She is as presumptuous as usual. Nothing she says is worth answering." And Miss Ijams continued with such phrases as, headline seeker, and ~~finished with a breathless blast~~ and she finished with this breathless blast: "Her pontifical remarks might come with grace from a president, but I have yet to read of her election to the presidency." With words like those blazing in the war of the ladies, you might think that any man would jump on his bicycle and start pedalling for distant parts. But University President Sproul rode his bicycle right into the fracas. Without mentioning any names, the Prexy made a public declaration about - "ill-advised zealots who lack balance wheels." He referred to persons who insult publicly a guest of the University on mere pride of personal opinion.

The Prexy didn't mention Miss Ijams by name - but it didn't do him any good.

"He meant me all right", says Miss Ijams, and she proceeded



to demolish President Sproul. "Thousands of alumni have no respect for him" she declared, "for playing politics with the Perkins woman." And she added a blast demanding a clean-up of the University.

These war bulletins about the Battle of Snub have me limp and wilted, and a good looking young fellow whose initials are J.W. is likely to twist a dial, snub me and chase me off the air if I don't hustle and say --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.