LONDON

Both statesmen and economists were awaiting with considerable interest news from London today. Specifically the news about John Bull's new budget, which the Chancellor of the exchequer presented in the House of Commons this afternoon. The first thing that strikes American observers is that it is a balanced budget with no provision for paying Uncle Sam a little matter of seventy-five million odd dollars as an instalment on the war debt due June 15th.

One thing Mr. Chamberlain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said to the Commons was: "We must await with friendliest interest the further measures which President Roosevelt no doubt has in mind in leading the way to the betterment of the world." He also said: "We of this country do not fear that things are going to get worse."

TREATIES

There was considerable to-do this morning over a story from Europe to the effect that Poland, France, and the Balkan powers had signed an agreement opposing any revision of the Treaty of Versailles. Coupled with this was supposed to be a resolution on the part of those five powers which include Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, and Ray Roumania, as well as Poland and France, to maintain a firmly hostile attitude to the Four Power Peace plan of Premier Mussolini of Italy.

This afternoon different news came from Europe. In
several capitals statesmen replied to this report with the words:
"T'ain't so." The Warsaw Government said the rumors of this
special agreement between Poland, France, and the little entents
were absolutely unfounded. A similar statement came from the
French Embassy in Berlin and the tendency in the other Chancellewies
is to threw doubt on the story.

GERMANY

The Hitler government has thought better of its plan to control the Protestant Church in Germany. Evidently there were been such an avalanche of protest that the Cabinet for the first time backed water. It rescinded the appointment of a commissioner the Church in the state of Mecklenberg-Schwerin.

At the same time the government announced that this
was not done before the Church had promised to reorganize itselfin accordance with the new state of political affairs in the

FRANCE

Optimistic but not very precise news comes from Paris.

Former Premier Herriot now in Washington made his report to his government on his first conversations with President Roosevelt.

The gist of that report is that France's special envoy received an excellent impression those conversations he had with our President.

well, that's encouraging if not exactly informative.

RUSSIA

The trade war between John Bull and the Soviet Union has begun. Immediately after the closing of the British Customs House at five o'clock this evening the embargo on all goods made within the realms of the Soviet went into effect. This will continue until the two British engineers imprisoned by the Soviet government are released. Meanwhile, there is a movement on foot in Russia to give John Bull tit for tat.

WASHINGTON

In Washington conferences continued between

The Sam

representatives of John Bull France, and Uncle Sam. Prime

Minister Ramsay MacDonald was closeted with President Roosevelt

at the White House this morning. Meanwhile there were also

discussions at the State Department.

It is believed that me in official circles that one up-shot of all these conferences may be a reciprocal trade agreement with Canada.

Then, too, Secretary of State Hull gave out information which has an important bearing on the international peace situation.

While the Secretary did not say so positively, he indicated that the United States might sign an agreement to strengthen the security of all countries; this for the purpose of stimulating international trade. The agreement would take the form of a new clause in the Kellogg Pact, otherwise known as the Pact of Paris.

It will provide for **ENEXMIX** consultation between the various countries.

Meanwhile in the Senate there was a furious debate on

the administration's inflation measure. Senator Harris of
Mississippi went so far as to charge a conspiracy between exSecretary Mellon and ex-Secretary Mills, the Republican plot
to block inflation.

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LABOR

The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives in

Washington held a dramatic session today. It was a part of the
hearings on the Administration bill for control of industry in
the United States by the Federal Government. What made it most
dramatic was the appearance as a witness of President Roosevelt's
Secretary of Labor, Miss Francis Perkins. In theatre parlance
she played to a big house. The audience included the First Lady
of the Land, Miss Ishbel MacDonald, daughter of the British Prime
Minister, and several other celebrities.

And, of course, news cameras and sound cameras there were there in great force.

The first woman to hold Cabinet office in the U.S.A.

playedxwitx pleaded with the Committee in behalf of this Administration

measure. She told the Representatives that its real purpose was to

increase employment. It will also, she added, increase the volume

of goods in interstate commerce.

Secretary Perkins's remarks to the Committee were

punctuated, not to say, impeded, by the noise of live light, flashing bulbs, and at one time a camera toppling over the bother the Representatives more than it did the Secretary.

Miss Perkins is also in favor of the Senator Black's bill providing for a thirty hour week which the Senate had already passed. But Miss Perkins would also have it include a clause for a minimum wage.

HOMES

Meanwhile the Banking Committee of the House was considering the two billion dollar measure urged by President Roosevelt to help the small owners of homes. The Committee reported the bill favorably and recommended that it be passed. And It will come before the House tomorrow.

But there's one quite important change in the measure.

As drawn up by the President's advisors, it provided that only the owners of homes worth ten thousand dellars or less should benefit.

by this help. The banking committee of the House stretched this figure from ten thousand to fifteen thousand dellars. Thus the beneficiaries of the bill will comprise a far more numerous class than those contemplated by Mr. Roosevelt and his advisors.

Mere's a matter of transcendent importance to the motoring public. And I guess that includes about all of us.

It's the question of adding alcohol to gasoline, and foisting such a mixture upon the public. The proposal is to put a varying amount of alcohol, intended ultimately to be ten per cent, into all gasoline sold. It's claimed that this movement is being fostered by the alcohol manufacturers under the guise of aiding the farmer. And apparently it's inspired, not for the welfare of the farmer. He'll receive no benefit. Ah ha, here's the point: it seems to bear a strange, strange relationship to the Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.

The motorist resents this because it will add three to four cents a gallon to the cost of his gasoline, which is already burdened with an average tax of five cents to the gallon.

The <u>automobile manufacturer</u> resents it because it interferes with operations of the motorist's car, requires expensive carburetor changes, and other difficulties; the

the gasoline manufacturers resent it because alcohol absorbs water like a sponge from any convenient source, including the air. Then the alcohol and water separate out of the gasoline. The farmer resents it because he is merely being made a catspaw in the vast alcohol racket and the net results to him will be nothing except a three cent advance in the price of the gasoline he uses.

In Iowa, the great corn state, this whole scheme was exposed and defeated by a farmer legislature.

The excuse for the plan is, that it will use many hundred million bushels of corn and allow the farmer to get sixty cents for it. However, here's the alleged joker: removing the alcohol from the corn detracts little from its food value, and the mash will be fed to the same cattle that are now eating corn. The only difference is that the mash is easier than the corn for the cows to digest and little more corn is consumed. Which doesn't seem to use up the corn. The whole scheme, is, according to its opponents, an unscrupulous attempt

to capitalize human distress; It is to the farmer only another quack, harmful panacea, to the motorist a decided curtailment to his driving range, and to his satisfaction in motoring; to the gasoline and motor car manufacturers a major disaster; and to the alcohol manufacturers a great market for alcohol at exorbitant prices and a more legal outlet than bathtub gin.

In view of the seriousness of this threatened legislation, the Sun Oil Company has asked me to bring this whole matter to your attention in the hope that each and every motorist and farmer will see that his representatives in Washington are awake to this danger. If you haven't already done so, it would be wise to telegraph or telephone your representative and Senator.

Ohio tonight. It is taking place in Dayton. The hose is the Dayton Herald which is giving a theatre party for all the couples. in Dayton and the surrounding country who have celebrated their golden wedding. anniversary. No less than seventy five couples, one hundred and fifty people, will be there. The oldest couple is, or perhaps I should say are, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gresson, who from the country where I was form — Darks Country. They have been married no less than seventy years, and that seems to me quite a record in these days. Here's congratulations to all 150 Julean.

CHICAGO

Chicago's papersxarex teachers are certainly in a sorry plight. Their visit of protest to General Dawes was unproductive of anything but noise and a characteristic explosion from the General.

The consequence may be even more serious. Instead of having the teachers continue to work without pay, Chicago's Board of Education may solve the problem by closing the schools, so that they just don't work. The President of the Board of Education announced today that Chicago's finances have reached a point where it is simply essential to send both pupils and teachers home.

All of which means that instead of working for no wages,

Ghicago's teachers will stay at home for the same wage. - nothing.

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RIVERSIBE

Incidentally, the reinstatement of an unpopular school principal in Riverside, New Jersey, caused such a hubbub that the pupils have been on strike for two days. This unpopular supervising principal is a woman. She was ousted from her job, but appealed to the courts, and by order of the Supreme Court of the State was reinstated. This aroused a storm of indignation, not only among the pupils, but for once their parents were in sympathy with them. The not only went on strike, but they have been carrying on noisy demonstrations, burning the unpopular lady in effigy to an obligato/exceedingly unflatter ing remarks. A dispatch to the Philadelphia Evening Ledger reports that this situation has created such a harbur throughout the county that the Board of Education will probably close both the grammar and the high schools for about a week.

deal about so-called election frauds. Those people take these charged with a grain of salt because seldom is anything ever done about it. So it comes with as a good deal of a surprise to read that a Federal Jury in New York City actually found four New York election officials guilty of conspiracy. The conspiracy specifically is described as one to "oppress and injure voters by counting their ballots incorrectly."

One of them was acquitted by the Jury, for which the aforesaid jury received a sharp rebuke from the Judge. His Honor declared that he had never seen a case more fully proved, and that the acquittal of this particular Democratic election captain was, as the Judge put it, "just too bad."

Both diamond canciers and the romantically minded will be interested in the news that one of the world famous diamonds is, in a manner of speaking, on the market again. This is the great and beautiful Hope diamond, so named because it was once in the possession of the aristocratic Hope family of England.

the world, and is even more famous than the Koh-i-noor, the Hope diamond is believed to be a than At any rate, people have noticed that disasters have occurred to many of the people through whose hands it has passed.

For a while its whereabouts were not widely known, but in the nineteenth century it came into the possession of the

In 1912 it came into the possession of the McLean two great hew fapers. family of Washington, owners of the Charlest Inquire and the Washington Post. Within a few months after Mr. McLean bought the diamond for three hundred thousand dollars, one of his sons was killed in a motor accident.

Mr. and Mrs. McLean, who was formerly Evelyn Walsh of Colorado, daughter of Tom Walsh, the Cripple Creek millionaire, have been estranged for some time. Mrs. McLean is now trying to dispose of the Hope diamond in order to save the Washington Post for her children's estate.

POCAHONTAS

Somebody, as the poet said, is always taking the joy out of life. Here's another college professor who is picking on the famous love story of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas.

pet hobby is investigating the investigating the inaccuracies in popular American history. He's been investigating the John Smith-Pocahontas romance, and as the result of his research he joins those who have declared that it is, in vulgar parlance, the bunk.

The historic Captain Smith, says this professor,
was a braggartk, a Simon Legree, and an unscrupulous adventurer.

The story of his famous love affair with Pocahontas, of her saving
him from the tomahawk of theexecutioner, was simply something
that he invented to try to show what a charming fellow he was.

The professor published the results of his research in a magazine article and two large newspapers became highly indignant.

They offered to prove that the Pocahontas legend was true and that the Kansas professor belonged in the Tall Story class. As a



matter of fact, the newspapers failed to make their point or to shake the professor's facts in any respect.

It seems that the truth of the matter was that Pocahontas,
the daughter of Chief Powhatan, was kidnapped by Governor Argall
of Virginia. She was kidnapped as a hostage in order to compel
Powhatan to keep the peace. In her capacity of hostage, Pocahontas
was held prisoner in the Virginia capital for several years.

but several other writers of history say that it is he who belongs in the Ananias Club. Captain John Smith, say the professors, nowadays, was one of the most incorrigible liars in American history. Und his statue should adorn the halls of the talk Story Club.

Well, there goes another illusion, and here's goes another broadcaster — and a-l-u-t-m.