

## BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

Two New Deal Upsets  
25,000 Watch Frogs  
In School Until 22  
Round Trips to Europe

Big news from the Supreme Court of the United States and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Two "far-reaching experiments" of the Roosevelt New Deal are declared unconstitutional.

The Supreme court in a sweeping decision killed the Guffey coal act; the District of Columbia Court of Appeals held the Resettlement Administration under Professor Tugwell violates the fundamental law of the land."

The decisions set forth that "these major experiments in socialization involve unlawful delegation of powers vested in Congress and violation by the federal government of the rights of the states," the Washington dispatch avers.

The resettlement decision affected only that part of the relief activities under Professor Tugwell's administration, leaving undecided the remainder of the \$4,800,000,000 voted to the President last year.

Much of the resettlement money has been spent and much more allocated, cancellation of which will raise problems.

At Angels Camp, Calif., 25,000 persons watched the annual Calaveras county frog-jumping contest and saw "Can't Take It" cover a distance of 12 feet 3 inches in three hops. Another frog, raised on the ranch of the late Will Rogers, was second, with 12 feet 2 inches.

Twenty-five thousand human beings watched some frogs hop; not half as many would have gathered to hear Einstein lecture on relativity.

It is suggested that every American be compelled to go to school until twenty-two years of age to cut down the competition for jobs.

It might be simpler to keep everybody in school until sixty and then give everybody a pension of \$200 a month. What could be simpler than that?

The average sensible American starts making a living long before he is twenty-two and would do well to continue on that basis.

Sir Hubert Wilkins, who has flown in the Arctic, Antarctic and other queer regions by plane, crossed the Atlantic by dirigible recently.

From almost anywhere in the United States, a business man could spend Wednesday and Thursday going about his business, catch the dirigible by airplane Thursday midnight, spend two business days in Europe and be at his desk the early part of the next week."

Prof. Raymond Moley says it was easier for Mussolini to conquer "muddy thinking" in the League of Nations than it will be to "prevail over the mud of Ethiopia in months to come."

New York police arrested a middle-aged woman begging near a church and "acting strangely." She wore men's shoes, five dresses, one over the other, and carried bank books showing deposits of \$25,000.

This should not discourage wise charity. Not every old woman, begging, has four extra dresses and \$25,000. But it might well discourage thoughtless, indiscriminate giving, which encourages professional beggars and causes young beggars to graduate as criminals.

Following an old Roman custom, Mussolini is taking a census of the Ethiopians that remain. The total number is between six and fourteen millions. Exact figures are wanted.

The able-bodied will be put to work, plows, spades and shovels supplied by Mussolini, with Italians telling the Ethiopians where and what to dig. That need not horrify us, for it is what we have been doing in this country for a long time. It will be better for the Ethiopians than killing and selling each other into slavery.

Americans ask three questions: "What is the news? Who won the game? Have you heard the story about —?" For that reason, the successful newspaper pays attention first to the news, told accurately and vividly, then it concentrates on sport, then on humor. Such dry things as opinions, editorials, books, in the rear. Fiction ought to be number four, but good fiction is scarce and the other kind not worth printing.

Anti-religious hatred persists in Spain. While Pope Pius in Rome was addressing representatives of Catholic newspapers, deplored Communism and the Hitler attitude toward the Catholic church and the Catholic press, a Spanish mob in Valencia was burning two Catholic churches, beautiful monuments of early days. Former indifference to religion has turned to actual hatred in many countries, and in those that were most deeply religious.

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First Dresden China

True porcelain was first made in Europe in 1700, when Johann Friedrich Böttger used kaolin from deposits near Dresden. In the following year he started the famous factory at Meissen, near Dresden, and Dresden china was put on the market.

Uncle Eben at Home

"I like to feel that I'm boss in my own home," said Uncle Eben. "So it's understood I kin talk as loud as I feels like so long as I don't insist on havin' my own way."

## News Review of Current Events the World Over

Congressional Quizzers Stir Dr. Townsend to Wrath  
Landon Has Big Bunch of Delegates—Guffey  
Coal Act Declared Invalid.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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FOR two days Dr. Francis E. Townsend replied mildly to the questions of the house committee investigating the activities of the organization behind the old age pension movement which the doctor started. Then the Californian lost his patience suddenly, refused to answer any more "nonsensical" queries, spoke of "thick-headed congressmen" denounced the committee for its "unfriendly attitude" and asserted the administration was a "hostile force" behind the inquiry. He declared he would form a third party after the November elections.

Finally Doctor Townsend told the committee: "I am retiring from this sort of inquisition and I do not propose to come back except under arrest. And I do refuse absolutely to make any further statement regarding this movement to this committee."

Escorted by Gerald K. Smith, former adherent of Huey Long, and another man, the Californian fled from Washington to Baltimore. The committee decided to ask the house to cite him for contempt.

When he was questioned regarding large sums contributed by Townsend club members the physician said the contributors had faith in him and that "we need millions to promote a movement of this kind and we will get them."

His testimony developed that Doctor Townsend, his brother, Walter Townsend, and Gilmour Young own the assets of the Townsend organization, estimated now at about \$80,000, and that Townsend club members have no property right in them.

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Sir Alf Landon captured nearly all the New Jersey delegates to the national convention, defeating Senator Borah about 4 to 1 in the popular vote. This victory gave the Kansan a total of more than 200 votes to start with at Cleveland, and his manager, John Hamilton, claimed he would have at least 300 of the 501 votes necessary to nominate and would win on the second or third ballot.

The statement by Herbert Hoover taking himself out of consideration for the nomination is generally judged to have helped Landon. With Mr. Hoover out of the picture it will be difficult to hold California, Texas, and other potentially Hoover votes away from Landon.

James A. Farley, postmaster general and also Democratic national chairman, told the Michigan Democratic convention he believed the Republican Presidential nominee will be "the governor of a typical prairie state" and that his election, if he won, would be a "perilous experiment." Farley criticized the man he did not name as devoid of experience in national affairs, and predicted that if he is the Republican standard bearer "even Kansas" will not be in the Roosevelt doubtful column.

About twenty of Pennsylvania's delegation to the Republican convention were pledged to support the popular choice of the state, which turned out to be Mr. Borah, no other name being officially entered at the April 28 primary. The delegation, which is unstructured, has now voted that these members must keep their pledge on the first ballot or until it becomes manifestly impossible for their choice to win. This action was taken on motion of former Senator David A. Keed, who will be the state representative on the platform committee.

CONSTITUTIONALITY of the railroad retirement system was contested before the District of Columbia Supreme court by attorneys representing the class 1 railroads and 289 lesser railway enterprises. The lawyers argued that the pension law and a tax law enacted at the same time are together "substantially the same" as the "unconstitutional railroad retirement act of 1934."

The two separate acts, one providing pensions and the other taxing the income of railroads and employees, were passed last year after the Supreme court ruled unconstitutional the 1934 law in which a levy and a pension system were combined.

The government contended that the alleged relation between the two acts could not be proved, and that the railroads were suing, in effect, to enjoin collection of a tax. Such a suit, the government contended, was barred by federal law. The government further defended its railroad retirement system as an exercise of its constitutional power "to provide for the common defense."

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"I like to feel that I'm boss in my own home," said Uncle Eben. "So it's understood I kin talk as loud as I feels like so long as I don't insist on havin' my own way."

The letter was signed by representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, the National Co-operative Council, the Na-

Neither Great Britain nor France has any intention of paying the instalments on the American war debt due June 15. And almost certainly all the other debtor nations except Finland will follow the example of the two big ones and again default. British Foreign Minister Eden talked about the debts with Leon Blum, who probably will be premier of France soon, but there was no indication that either one was planning to make a payment. Blum told the American club in Paris he hoped the war debt "misunderstanding" might be cleared up, but he was just trying to be pleasant to the people of both America and France without spending any money.

Of course the debtor nations would like to have the issue cleared up, for as long as they are in default they are subject to the restrictions of the Johnson act which makes it unlawful for any person in the United States to purchase or sell the bonds, securities or other obligations of any foreign government or to make any loans to such a government while that government is in default in payment of its obligations.

ENITO MUSSOLINI advised Prince von Starhemberg of Austria not to start any domestic trouble because he was ousted from the cabinet by Chancellor Schuschnigg, and when the prince returned to Vienna the cabinet fixed things up neatly by decreeing that the country should have three fuhrers. Schuschnigg, the unofficial dictator, becomes national leader of the fatherland front; Eduard Baar von Barenfels, the new vice chancellor, is national commander of the front militia; and Starhemberg continues as sports leader and head of the Northern Protective association.

NATIONS that are especially hard up might consider the method said to be employed by Rumänia. A Bucharest newspaper asserts that government employees have been paid largely in counterfeit money, vast quantities of bogus 100 lei pieces having been issued in sealed bags by the ministry of finance. That ministry then announced that the counterfeit coins would not be redeemed and that persons who passed them would be prosecuted.

THE resettlement administration headed by Rexford Guy Tugwell was declared by the District of Columbia court of appeals to be "clearly unconstitutional delegation of power," in a case involving a model community project in Somerset county, New Jersey.

Going beyond the issue before them, the justices of the Appeals court called the entire relief appropriations act of 1935 into question. The act was invalid and hence RA was invalid, according to the court. Legally, however, none of the rest of the act will be affected by the decision because the other multitudinous activities of the New Deal under the appropriation were not before the court.

Solicitor Gen. Stanley Reed said an appeal would be taken to the Supreme court at once.

DR. ANTON PAVELIC, alleged leader of Ustashi, the Croatian terrorist organization, and accused as one of the "masterminds" in the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia in Marseilles, has been set free by the Italian authorities. Released with him was his lieutenant, Eugene Kvaternik. The two were arrested at Turin in October, 1934, soon after the murder of Alexander, but the French authorities who were working on the case were never permitted to question them and an Italian tribunal refused the request of the French government for their extradition to France for trial.

JOSE LUIS TEJADA SORAZO was forced to resign the presidency of Bolivia by a junta of army officers and Socialists who staged a bloodless coup d'état in La Paz. Col. German Busch, acting chief of the general army staff, leader of the coup, will be at the head of the government until Col. David Toro, hero of the war with Paraguay, returns from the Chaco, when Toro will be installed as president.

The immediate objective of the new administration was complete settlement of a general strike which the officers asserted was imperiling the country's economic stability. The labor federation quickly suspended the strike movement, expressing solidarity with the army-Socialist coup.

NEWS that Japan was greatly enlarging her force in North China led the State department in Washington to announce that the position of the United States is the same as that outlined last December by Secretary Hull affirming its support of the nine power pact that guarantees China's territorial integrity. At that time Mr. Hull said this country has a binding faith in the fundamental principles of its traditional policy. This government adheres to the provisions of the treaties to which it is a party and continues to bespeak respect by all nations for the provisions of treaties solemnly entered into for the purpose of facilitating and regulating, to reciprocal and common advantage.

At the State department it was said that the reaffirmation of support of the nine power pact does not mean that the administration will abandon its policy of declining to take the initiative in any attempt to curb Japan for violations of the pact. This was attempted by Henry L. Stimson, secretary of state in the Hoover administration, with the gain of nothing but Japanese ill will.

Japan's military strength in North China south of the Great Wall is now said to be fully 15,000 men. There are about 80,000 more in Manchukuo and still others in Inner Mongolia.

MRS. SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT, aged mother of the President, fell while on a visit in New York some days ago and is laid up at Hyde Park with an impacted hip and cracked bone. She made light of the injuries but Mr. Roosevelt was gravely concerned. He spent the week-end with his mother.

## Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. — WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington—The Department of Agriculture and its stepchild, the Agricultural Adjustment administration, have launched the initial phase of the new soil conservation program. This, it will be remembered, is the agricultural benefit policy worked out to supersede the unconstitutional AAA, and the speed with which the department has developed the early phases of its new program is noteworthy. It has not wasted any time, nor could it waste time, in order to make the new program effective in this crop year.

From this program, two sets of conclusions have been drawn. One school

of thought maintains that the regulations are simple and easy of enforcement;

the other group argues that it is utterly impossible to apply rules and regulations, administered from a central bureau in Washington, to the whole country and yet enable flexibility of management sufficient to meet the countless problems that will arise.

One conclusion is that by administration of the rules and regulations through state and county organizations and with the aid of state experiment stations, individual farmers can be advised and can work out their individual problems with ease. The other school of thought contends that this very fact means a perfect maze of different applications of the rules and regulations both as to language and intent; this group likewise maintains that favoritism will permeate the whole structure and that there will be injustice, ill will and politics in the way the local organizations deal with the farmers.

Some of the soil building practices proposed under the new scheme of soil conservation will be of great benefit to the farmer undeniably will work out but there are others about which there is much doubt. Indeed, already it has been pointed out that certain of the practices proposed are vulnerable and are likely to lead to serious trouble for agriculture and for the government.

More than a score of the states were included in the first set of rules and regulations governing soil building practices and rates of payment. The others are nearing completion and will be promulgated at an early date. But the first block of rules and regulations and rates of payment establish the general outline of the department's ideas and it can be said, I think, that in these rules and regulations (the government must lay down general provisions) lies the trouble. They are replete with that which we usually describe as red tape and red tape never has failed to cause trouble.

Practices for which farmers may receive payments vary from state to state. They include the new seeding of legumes and grasses, the plowing under of green manure crops, the planting of forest trees, the eradication of perennial noxious weeds and, in certain areas, a variety of special soil handling methods such as listing, strip cropping and fallowing, terracing or approved summer fallow. In addition, farmers in certain dry land areas have the option of substituting some of the practices for acreage of soil conserving crops.

In announcing the new practices and rates of payment, the Agricultural Adjustment administration declared that the policies follow in general the recommendations made to the Adjustment administration by the several state committees. It was declared that the sentiment throughout has been "to adapt the general plan to the specific needs of the states in conformity with the approved methods which have been tested by the land grant colleges, the experiment stations and soil conservation service."

The Adjustment administration considered that these three agencies furnished the best basis, or the best foundation, for the construction of the generally new program. It follows, therefore, that a considerable part of the new setup comes by way of expansion of the old soil conservation service which has had much experience in that work. It cannot be said, however, that the new phases have been tested nor is it more than conjecture how the farmers themselves will take to the plan now offered.

As the new soil conservation plans unfold, those who doubt their efficacy point to numerous new dislocations that are comparable to those of the old AAA

which I have just enumerated. For example, it is claimed, and there seems to be justice in the claim, the placing of a premium on growth of hay crops such as alfalfa, alsike and clover, can mean only an overabundance of those crops. I do not say that it is certain to occur but if conditions repeat themselves, the prices for hay crops in the market are due to fall. The law of supply and demand still governs regardless of theory and regardless of the attempts of bureaucrats to plan which the farmer shall or shall not grow. If world consumption falls low, crops of hay will be valuable. The chances, however, seem to be wholly on the other direction.

Time alone can tell how this thing will work out but I cannot believe any sound-thinking person or any person who analyzes the program through to its ultimate end can say that it is free from weaknesses. The tragedy of the thing is that government is experimenting on the farmers. With that I am not in accord and never can be.

Further, while I dislike to disparage honest efforts, I am afraid the new soil conservation program embodies some politics as well as efforts to help agriculture.

If it were a purely critical report of the soil conservation policies that I am making to you, I would be inclined to add to the above analysis the assertion that these plans embody too much organization. I have observed government administration from close at hand through a number of years. There is one conviction that I have gained. That conviction is that every time a new policy is proposed that requires the scattering of government-paid administrators, executives, field agents, inspectors and countless other nomadic individuals, clothed with official authority, throughout the country, just then does the policy fail of its purpose. Many hands may make light work but many heads, partly politicians, can make a mess.

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Just as the soil conserving practices vary, so do the rates of payment between the several states. It is the claim of the Adjustment administration that variation in rates is due largely to variations in the cost of seed, in rates of seeding or to differences in the requirements with respect to soil building practices.

Rates of payment for soil conservation on irrigated land are higher than for those on dry land and likewise long standing agricultural practices have been taken into account in calculating the rates to be paid in various sections to offset the greater or less expense to which farmers normally are put in producing their crops.

Generally in the dry land states, the seeding and growing of perennial legumes, such as alfalfa, will net the farmer about \$2.00 per acre but in irrigated districts the rate of payment varies from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per acre.

For most states, the rate for biennial legumes is \$1.50 on non-irrigated land and from \$2.50 to \$3.00 an acre on irrigated land. Rates of payment for growing sweet clover are somewhat less as are the rates of payment for growing annual legumes.

The rates for plowing under green manure crops are from \$1.00 to \$2.50 an acre, depending upon the amount of growth which is turned under. For planting forest trees on crop land, farmers are scheduled to be paid \$5.00 an acre.

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB  
All life is like a poem  
Of love and work  
and fighting.  
We're living quite  
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Just at the present  
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R. T. C. A. M.

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