

TRAGEDY BORN OF PEACE OF UTRECHT

Acadia was the name of the old French colony which embraced Nova Scotia and most of New Brunswick. Colonization began early in the Seventeenth century, but in 1713 France ceded Acadia to Britain. This was one of the many provisions of the Peace of Utrecht, which ended the War of the Spanish Succession—a war in which there were prizes for everybody.

Following the transfer, the Acadians asked permission to leave the country, but were refused. They took thereafter a conditional oath of allegiance to the British crown, and for the next forty years went on pledging a measure of fealty, but declining full allegiance. Claiming no homeland but Acadia, they gave aid to neither side in the subsequent quarrels of France and England in the New World, and they were known as "the French neutrals."

When the French invaded Acadia in 1742 they got no help from the Acadians; but when Cornwallis, in 1749, insisted on full allegiance to Britain, they again refused the oath. Again they asked to be allowed to quit the country and seek new homes beyond the reach of European politics, but without avail.

This situation continued until 1755. In the siege of Fort Beauséjour in that year several hundred Acadians assisted the French—under compulsion, it has been said. The British were convinced of the disloyalty of the Acadians and decided to disperse their colony—but not to let them go together to some place where they might prove anew a source of annoyance.

In December, 1755, they were herded on ship and scattered arbitrarily throughout the British colonies farther south, from Massachusetts to Georgia. Their farms and cattle were given to English settlers. Though the process was not entirely a heartless one, some families were broken up, and many friends and neighbors were parted never to meet again. Thus such tragedies as "Evangeline" occurred.

The number of Acadians deported was more than 6,000 and may have been 18,000. Some stayed where they were put; some went to the West Indies or Guiana, and some to France; some got back, eventually, to Acadia; but many more made their way to the French colonies at the mouth of the Mississippi river, and many a Louisiana family traces its ancestry to the Cajuns.



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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Congress Quickly Acts on President Roosevelt's Request for New Legislation—Reopening of Banks Spurs Upturn in Business Activities.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S request to congress that he be given authority to make cuts in the salaries of government employees up to 15 per cent, and to make reductions in the amounts paid to veterans, that authority to include practically an entire revamping of the government policy as it applies to government expenditures, as it applies to veterans of the World War, and other wars, met with a quick response on the part of the house of representatives and the senate.



President Roosevelt

The bill passed the senate by a vote of 62 to 13. Forty-three Democrats and nineteen Republicans voted for the measure; four Democrats and nine Republicans against it.

The vote in the house was 266 for the measure and 138 against it. That result was not achieved without difficulty, and the difficulty came in the ranks of the President's party, and its passage would not have been possible without the aid of Republican members of the house. In a party caucus 92 Democratic members bolted the President's leadership and voted against the measure, their opposition being to that portion of the bill giving the President dictatorial powers in the matter of expenditures for veterans. At the final roll call, 197 Democrats and 69 Republicans voted for the bill, and 82 Democrats, 41 Republicans and five Farmer-Laborites against it. Several members who were opposed to the bill but who did not wish to be recorded as against an economy measure, decided not to vote.

An analysis of the vote shows that 68 per cent of the Democrats voting and 62 per cent of the Republicans stood by it, but leaders said that the Democratic percentage for the measure would have been much lower had not a parliamentary maneuver been invoked to prevent rebellious members of the party caucus from going through with their plans.

Still another factor was credited with part of the favorable vote, and that was the word passed around the house cloakrooms that President Roosevelt planned to denounce the opposition in a nation-wide radio broadcast if the bill had failed of approval.

It is believed the President will make a saving of approximately \$385,000,000 in the expenditures for veteran relief by cutting out all men whose disability, on which claims for relief are based, was not the result of war service. The reduction in the salaries of government employees is expected to save approximately another \$150,000,000.

In the senate an effort was made to delay the passage of the act by proposing amendments, and the senate chamber resounded to the oratory of friends of the veteran and of federal employees, battling, against certain and overwhelming odds, to win some amendment to the bill.

WHILE the President has received Republican aid in securing desired legislation for his banking, economy and beer program, he will probably not be able to depend upon it to the same extent at least for his farm program. That contemplates giving the President dictatorial powers in so manipulating the price of farm products to bring them up to what is termed a "parity" price. The contemplated law would authorize the President, acting through the secretary of agriculture, to fix a parity price of each farm product—that is, a price at which the producer of the product would be placed on a parity with the producer of manufactured articles. For example, the secretary of agriculture might declare \$1 a bushel to be the parity price of wheat. The object then would be to manipulate the price of wheat upward until the desired parity price should be reached.

In order to raise the prices of farm products the secretary of agriculture under the terms of the bill would invoke various devices. He might employ the domestic allotment plan to influence the prices of one group of commodities and the government land leasing plan in the case of another group.

Secretary Wallace insists that it would not be a price fixing law for the reason that no price would be fixed by fiat. Instead, a price would be declared to aim at and the measures adopted would be those judged most likely to raise the price to the point desired.

The products covered in the contemplated law are wheat, corn, cotton, cattle, sheep, hogs, milk, dairy products, tobacco and rice.

Along with this the President proposes the scaling down of farm mortgages and a reduction in the interest rates through agricultural credit agencies, all of which are to be consolidated under the direction of Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

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BANKS began opening for business on March 13. On that date they banks connected with the Federal Reserve system and located in Federal Reserve bank cities opened their doors under licenses from the Treasury department. Banks in all clearing house cities that had applied for and been issued licenses either by the federal treasury or, in the case of state banks, by state banking departments, began opening on Tuesday, and those in the smaller cities and towns on Wednesday.

There were no restrictions placed on the banks in the way of limiting withdrawals, except where the depositor was attempting to secure sums that would indicate hoarding, when the person making the withdrawal was required to state his purpose and give his name and address.

The banks were also required not to pay out gold or gold certificates, the embargo the President had placed on gold being continued, and vast amounts of the metal were being returned to the banks. Up to March 13 it was estimated the Federal Reserve bank in New York had received more than \$100,000,000 of hoarded gold and in Chicago more than \$23,000,000 had been returned. The returns throughout the nation indicated a larger amount of gold brought back to the banks than the total withdrawal of the metal since February 1, though the government did not give out any definite statement on the subject.

It was after the President had repeated and emphasized the embargo he had placed on gold payments that Governor Blood of Utah signed a bill passed by the legislature requiring "the treasurer of the state of Utah and of each taxing subdivision within the state to pay all public employees under their jurisdiction in gold coin."

Where will Utah get the gold? The President, in a published statement and also in a national broadcast, detailed in simple language the reasons for the national bank holiday and the plans for opening. He was careful to emphasize the point that the time of opening any bank was not determined by its relative condition, but by the ability of the officials of the Federal Reserve banks and of the Treasury department to make the proper check for the issuing of licenses. He explained that banks that were not sound would not be permitted to open except under government supervision for the purpose of reorganizing them.

The reopened banks were supplied with a liberal allowance of the new currency based on bank assets, but in practically no case was any of this needed as the deposits exceeded the withdrawals, and in many cases the new currency was returned to the Federal Reserve banks.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT took time out from the urging of new legislation to give some consideration to the filling of important diplomatic posts. He has sent to the senate the names of Robert Worth Bingham, publisher of Louisville, Ky., as ambassador to Great Britain; Jesse Isador Straus, president of R. H. Macy & Co., New York department store, as ambassador to France; and Joseph Daniels, war secretary of the navy, under whom Mr. Roosevelt served as assistant secretary, as ambassador to Mexico.

At least one of these will meet with some opposition in the senate. Senator Arthur Robinson (Rep., Ind.) announced that he would offer evidence that Mr. Bingham had made speeches in England which caused him to be labeled as "apologetic American."

Advisers of the President, however, declared that he was fully satisfied that Mr. Bingham will assert and defend America's position on all issues emphatically and patriotically.

WORLD war veterans, the U. S. Supreme court decided, are without priority over other depositors in the claims against insolvent banks for the money received from the United States. The ruling was handed down in a case involving a deposit of approximately \$6,000 which Sam Spicer had in the Hargis Bank and Trust company of Breathitt county, Kentucky, when it became insolvent.

The assets of the bank were not sufficient to pay all depositors, and it was contended that money received from the United States by veterans for insurance and disability allowances was money of the United States while on deposit in banks to the credit of veterans and was therefore entitled to priority. The Supreme court decided otherwise.

A TORNAO swept the Tennessee-Kentucky border from the Mississippi river to the Cumberland mountains, killing 80 persons, injuring more than 200 and did damage estimated at \$1,000,000.

WITH a special message of only 72 words—the shortest Presidential message ever written—the President secured legislation amending the Volstead act and making 3.05 per cent beer legal in the United States. The President's 72 words were:

"I recommend to the congress the immediate passage of legislation for the Volstead act, in order to legalize the manufacture and sale of beer and other beverages of such alcoholic content as is permissible under the Constitution and to provide through such manufacture and sale, by substantial taxes, a proper and much needed revenue for the government.

"I deem action at this time to be of the highest importance."

The beer bill provides for an alcoholic content of not over 3.05 per cent, for a tax of \$5 a barrel, for a license fee of \$1,000 for each brewery, and the law is to be effective 15 days after it is signed by the President, which means beer will be on sale shortly after the first of April.

The bill was passed by a strictly non-partisan vote. In the house 238 Democrats voted for it and 68 against; 73 Republicans for and 39 against, and 5 Farmer-Labor for. Twenty members did not vote, and there are two vacancies.

Kansas was the only state whose representatives voted solidly against the bill, while the representatives of 18 states voted all wet.

The senate amended the house bill to include wine, to make the alcoholic content of both 3.05 instead of 3.2 and to prohibit sale to children under sixteen years of age. The vote in the senate was 43 for the bill and 80 against, also along strictly non-partisan lines.

It is estimated the \$5 a barrel tax on beer will produce about \$125,000,000 additional revenue.

OF SPECIAL interest to Roman Catholics is the allocution delivered by Pope Pius at the holy year anniversary inaugurating the holy year.

His holiness issued a warning that communism is attempting to exploit the world's political and economic disorders and expressed a fervent wish for disarmament and settlement of war debts. The pontiff bestowed the Roman purple on six new cardinals of the church and announced that two others would be elevated later. The six elevated were: Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi, former apostolic delegate at Washington; Archbishop Villeneuve of Quebec, Angelo Dolci, Archbishop Innitzer of Vienna, Archbishop Costa of Florence and Archbishop Fossati of Turin.

Second only to the "nefarious propaganda of communists" which, he said, threatens Christian civilization, the pontiff deplored proselytizing activities of Protestant sects in Italy and Rome. He describes these activities as being "impudently pursued" and urged all the faithful to co-operate against "this menace and defend the treasured riches of city and nation."

PLANS for immediate reconstruction and rehabilitation are well under way in Los Angeles and its suburbs, where earth tremors caused 115 deaths and property damage estimated at \$75,000,000. An appeal has been made to the federal government and the Reconstruction Finance corporation for the majority of funds needed for rebuilding. Congress passed a bill, introduced by Senator William G. McAdoo of Los Angeles, for an emergency appropriation of \$5,000,000 to relieve immediate distress in the stricken area.

The earthquake will probably give to science the first accurate records of just how the earth shakes during such a disaster, information which may be highly valuable in constructing buildings to withstand earthquakes in the future.

THE French cabinet is sounding out the members of the chamber of deputies in an attempt to whip up a majority in favor of paying the \$19,201,432 war debt installment to the United States which was defaulted on December 15.

Former Premier Herriot has been lobbying in the government's behalf, seeking pledges to vote favorably in case Premier Daladier should decide to bring the matter to a vote. Herriot has been telling the deputies that it is necessary to act quickly, as the government would like to have the payment coincide with the departure of the new French ambassador to Washington.

THE new administration refuses to allow the United States to be bound by any action that is taken, but agrees to join the League of Nations members in a discussion of what the world should do about Japanese military incursions in northern China.

Hugh R. Wilson, minister to Switzerland, has been named to sit at the council table with the league's special advisory committee on the undeclared war in the Far East, with two important reservations: The United States, a non-member of the league, will not vote. It will not agree in advance to bow to the committee's decision, which may call for an economic boycott or other coercive measures.

Western Newspaper Union.

Discovers Nation Lost for Twenty Centuries

A nation unscrubbed in the annals of history, lost 20 centuries, has been discovered, says The Modern Thinker. It was located in the Arabian peninsula, and by some odd inversion of terms, was paradoxically called Sealand.

Prof. Raymond P. Dougherty, who advanced the hypothesis of its existence, claims that it was of no little importance in the ancient world. The history of the country is already divided into periods. The first, 2500 B. C. to 1000 B. C., saw in the Sealanders a meddlesome race, intruding into the affairs of nearby peoples. Period II found their early characteristics fully developed; they played an aggressive role during the season of Assyrian glory. And in the period of decline—to the sixth century B. C.—they aided in the downfall of Assyria.

Racially, the population may have been very diversified. Certain of the early kings bear Sumerian names, others Semitic. The Sealanders had a highly developed religious code, embodying many of the most abstract concepts known to later theology, metaphysics, and ethics—the absolute beneficence, mercy, divinity. Ingenious in the manner by which Professor Dougherty discovered Sealand, it did not dig up ancient ruins or decipher ancient hieroglyphs, but relied upon disconnected and fragmentary references to such a place as Sealand in the literature of Babylonia and Assyria.

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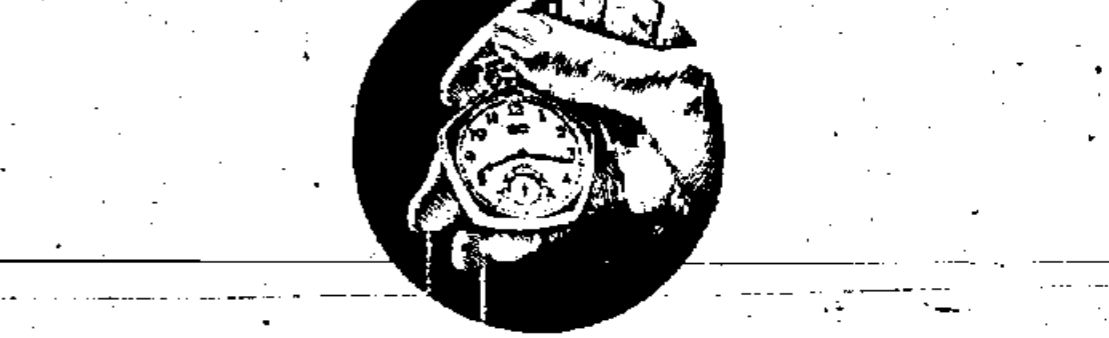
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