National and World Events

High Lights in The General News of the Week, Told in Pertinent Paragraphs

Senator Hiram Johnson announced this week that he is prepared to push his plan for a federal presidential primary law.

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THE BRITISH BUDGET The British Budget for 1921 as announced by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer indicates that the United States is not the only country that foolishly invest 93 cents out of every dollar of its revenue, for military purposes. The principal items in the British Budget are 345 million pounds for interest on debt; 110 million pounds for redemption of war debts; 149 million pounds for soldiers' pensions; 35 million pounds for soldiers' land settlements, etc. This does not include an estimate of 270 million pounds for the army and navy. So much for the cost of militarism Getting down to things worth while one finds in the budget that the British can get along with 56 million pounds for education and 7 million pounds for roads.

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Rev. Sam Spahr Laws, eminent theologian, teacher and writer, and said to have been the inventor of the electric stock ticker, died in Asheville, N. C. Sunday, at the age of 97.

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U. S. government scientists experimenting with the humble corn cob have found that it contains much of commercial value. The corn cob will yield acetate of lime and acetic acid. It contains much cellulose which can be used in the manufacture of high explosives. And by distillation a ton of cobs will yield 30 lbs. of furfural, the value of which we are told is $20 a pound. Furfural is a chemical which is now obtaining by distilling bran.

WHO OWNS THE WEALTH Asserting that a Federal tax upon estates, that is, upon the capital value of property is essential to enable the government promptly to compel the wealthiest classes who have profited most from the war to pay their fair share of the costs of the war, George P. Hampton, managing director of the Farmers' National Council in a statement on how to pay the cost of the war and current expenses of the government, says that thirty-three people own nearly two per cent of the national wealth:

"In 1918," Mr. Hampton states, "22,696 millionaires were estimated by the eminent publicist Mr. Richard Spillane to own 27.2 per cent of the nataional wealth or over $68,000,000,000,—while the 33 richest Americans owned property worth about $4,837,000,000, or roughly 2 per cent of the national wealth. In 1918 the national wealth was estimated to be $250,000,000,000. It is now estimated to be $500,000,000,000. Our 23,000 millionaires are probably worth now about $136,000,000,000, and the 33 richest Americans about $9,675,000,000.

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Figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Labor's bureau of labor and statistics and made public this week show that the rent, fuel and light expenses for the average American family have increased 100 per cent in six years and an increase in the cost of these things has continued during the past six months, spite of the downward tendency of other things.

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A CO-OPERATION CONGRESS The All American Farmer-Labor Co-operative Commission announces that its second annual Co-operative Congress to be held from February 10 to 12th inclusive, in the auditorium of the Engineers' Building, Cleveland, Ohio, will be devoted chiefly to planning direct trading between farm producer and city consumer, and co-operative banking.

The Commission calls attention to the fact that from July 1st to Nov. 1st last year the average prices farmers received for potatoes fell from $3.93 to $1.18 per bushel and wheat from $2.53 to $1.88 per bushel. Direct trading between farm producers and city consumers the Commission states is the best way to give farmers at least production costs and enable consumers to get farm products much cheaper than if they go through many middlemen's hands. Many potato exchanges, co-operative flour mills, milk condenseries and some meat packing houses are ready to ship directly to responsible co-operative consumers organizations and so to save needless middlemen's profits. During the past year the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has opened their co-operative bank at Cleveland and farmers' organizations and labor unions throughout the country are planning co-operative banks and credit unions on which subjects experts will speak at the Cleveland Congress.

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Fire of unknown origin in the Department of Commerce building at Washington Monday destroyed priceless census records dating back to 1790 when the first census was taken. There are no duplicates.

COAL MINERS WILL FIGHT The United Mine Workers of America have sent letters to the 4,000 local unions in the country levying an assessment of one dollar a month for two months on the entire membership numbering 553,000, for the purpose of carrying to a finish the fight of the union coal miners in Alabama, and to fight the lock-out in Mingo County, West Virginia, according to an announcement made by the mine workers journal.

Approximately 50,000 persons in the two fields are being supported by the International Union and up to January 4. $1,345,000 had been expended from its treasury for that purpose. The union seems determined to fight and sums up the situation in a letter, as it sees it as follows:

"The sufferings which the men, women and children living in both these coal fields have undergone challenge the admiration of every member of our union," reads the letter sent to the local unions. "They have been thrown out of their homes; have been denied the right of free assemblage, have been subjected to the brutal treatment of a private army of gunmen, guards and operators and to the repressive military regulations which have been established by the State and federal troops ordered into these mining communities. Such heroic action calls for our full support in the struggle these brave men and women are making against the forces of corporate greed and corporate power."

Mine operators seem determined also to fight it out although it is obvious that they could do with less profit. One of the biggest coal operators testified before the United States Senate Committee that he has cleaned up $75,000 in cold cash buying coal for the war department during the war at $11 a ton with a 50c rake off for himself on each ton. And so the people are the goat on every hand.

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Investigation of the cause of unharmonious notes in a Raleigh, N. C. church orgn disclosed a nine pound 'possum in one of the pipes.

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LEGION CHARGES NEGLECT of VETS A memorial delivered by Col. F. W. Galbraith, Jr. Commander of the American Legion, to Congress asserts that "suffering, shameful neglect and injustice marks the administration of the affairs of the war veterans." and claims that with all its liberality toward its veterans the United States has failed in a large measure to make these provisions available, due to divided responsibility and wasted effort among the Governmental agencies with which the problem rests, summing up the situation as follows:

"In the rehabilitation of a disabled man there are three needs — medical treatment, vocational training and financial support," the memorial proceeds.

"The Government has recognized the three needs, but overlooks the fact that they are the simultaneous needs of one man, not of three different men or of one man at three different times, it makes three problems out of what really is one three-part problem.

"Continuing this faulty conception, it has given the problem over to three agencies: The Public Health Service for treatment, the Federal Board for Vocational Education for treating and Bureau of War Risk Insurance for financial support. Each of these agencies is an institution complete in itself. Each is administratively independent of the other two. All by force of circumstances are exercising functions they were not intended to exercise. This presents an amazing spectacle of administrative chaos, duplication, wasted energy and conflict which is the key to the present condition.

"The result is the suffering of the disabled veteran. Thousands are waiting and have waited for months for compensation for their injuries. Thousands have waited for months for an opportunity to re-establish themselves as self-sustaining members of society by vocational training. Thousands are in need of hospitalization, and the Government has no hospital facilities available for them Sixteen thousand beds are needed now. Hundreds of veterans are the objects of public and private charity. Afflicted and penniless veterans have been driven to refuge in almshouses and jails. Many have died, and if immediate relief is not forthcoming more will die, destitute, without proper medical care, without compensation with which to obtain it, abandoned by the country they served. All this is attributed directly to the manner in which the Government has administered the affairs of the disabled. Immediate relief and ultimate remedy of this condition is possible and imperative."

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There is a decided slump in the moving picture industry, and a great many actors are out of employment, according to press reports.

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MORE STUFF ABOUT JAPAN The Manila "Bulletin", a newspaper published in the Phillipine Islands comments at length upon the differences that have arisen over the California land law in respect to Japanese citizens. The Bulletin believes that it is unfortunate that a limited number of citizens should be doing their utmost to create distrust on both sides of the water, and goes on to say:

If Japan won't accept the California land law and listen to reason we must fight. If Japan tries to take away the Phillippines and Hawaii we must defend them. If Japan has a larger navy on the Pacific than on our own we must look for trouble. These and some 97 more "ifs" are the stock in trade of these talk mongers in the United States, and perusal of the Japanese press indicates that the island empire is afflicted with a similar pest.

"Japan seems perfectly willing to discuss the land law in a friendly manner. Japan hasn't tried to seize the Philippines or Hawaii by force of arms, and Japan hasn't set up a naval program that makes her a dangerous competitor of the United States in sea power. So why all of this talk about what might happen if she did or did not do this or that?

"The only result is to stir up feeling in both countries and to make it harder than ever for those who desire to maintain friendly relations to accomplish this purpose. And more than this, a spirit of enmity is created that sooner or later is bound to make serious trouble unavoidable.

"It was the talk of jingoes that really brought about Germany's delusions of grandeur and her mistaken vision of world conquest, while at the same time making the rest of the world so distrustful of her motives as to ally itself against her.

"Ill-considered accusations by men in public life in the United States and Japan, through which the people of each country are being led more to adopt an attitude of sullen hostility towards those of the other, are a menace to peace, and should be deplored by everyone who has the interests of his country at heart."

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900 employes of the Pullman Co. of Chicago have agreed to wage reductions as high as 20 per cent as a help to readjustment. Officias of the company admit that the increase in the wages of employes was only 100 per cent. in the last four years.

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AND NOW THE MAYOR OF CORK Donald O'Callaghan, Lord Mayor of Cork landed in America the other day, after having shipped aboard a steamer as a stowaway. His purpose in coming to this country was to testify before the Committee of 100 investigating the Irish situation. Tho held up as a stowaway, he was paroled by Secretary of Labor Wilson until his rights to stay in this country could be determined. In discussing the sentiment of his people, he stated that the Irish do not want home rule, but wanted nothing but freedom. He added that home rule might change conditions in Ireland for a while and that the Irish people would accept it with a "non-resident policy", to see what would become of it before they did anything definite."

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President-elect Harding has requested officials arranging for his inauguration to abandon all plans for an inaugural ceremony, as a step in the interest of national thrift.

CLEAN HOG LOTS AS PROFIT MAKERS

Dr. M. E. Coyle on Hog Cholera Control

The time of the year is again at hand when the farmer is least busy with normal farm work, and a period of earned rest has arrived. However as the cotton and the tobacco farmer have again seen this year, that the old adage, "It is unsafe to carry all your eggs in one basket," is still true, it is hoped that the period of price depression will stimulate the North Carolina farmer to see that it is better to raise his own meats, and thus our state will go forward towards her ultimate destination of a pork producing state, and that the year 1921 will see thousands of more and better swine on the farms.

It is still true that the greatest of all swine losses are caused thru outbreaks of hog cholera, but it is equally true that other disease and conditions exist which cause large financial losses, and which are largely due to unsanitary conditions about the hog lots.

Foremost among such conditions may be mentioned worm infestations, and greatest of all these parasites the ascarides, a worm that infests the intestional tract of adult swine. The loss occasional by this worm is not only great from the worm in its adult stage in the intestional tract, but recent investigations by the federal government sanitarians show that during the larval stage of this worm a portion of its life will be spent in the lungs of pigs, and that it is therefore one of the greatest causes of pneumonia that we have to deal with. The only remedy is cleanliness. If it is known that the herd is infested with these worms it is assumed that the ground of the pastures and lots are infested with the eggs of the worm, ready to be picked up by the pigs. Therefor it is time for new lots and pastures to be prepared and the old lots burned over and cropped for a year or so.

Another disease caused by unsanitary conditions is known as "Necrotic Enteritis", which is a disease affecting the intestinal tract, causing great losses when it once becomes established on a farm. This condition is fostered by unclean lots, pens, drinking and feeding places and will remain on a farm for years causing annual losses unless steps are taken to clean up and disinfect. The first thing to be done when this disease is found is to prepare new lots, pastures and shelters, etc., moving the stock from the old, after disinfecting them by running the animals thru a dipping vat of some reliable disinfectant. After moving the animals the old lots should be thoroughly cleansed and cropped for a year or so. In cleaning it is best to cut down all weeds, undergrowth, etc., rake up all refuse and burn, together with all old troughs, bedding, etc. Medical treatment for this disease is needed as well, but the diagnosis should first be made by a competent Veterinarian who can at the same time outline the treatment needed.

One other condition which can be mentioned is infestation of swine by external parasites—lice. One can hardly realize the immense economic loss occasioned by this parasite but it is great. Eternal vigilance is the weapon best suited for this condition, but the foundation of a successful fight against the parasite is once more—cleanliness. Clean quarters, clean bedding, good food in clean places, and rubbing posts or oiling contrivances, etc. Therefore it is once more suggested that some of the idle winter time be spent in a campaign of thorough cleaning and disinfecting the old hog houses and lots and pastures, cutting down the weeds, undergrowth, etc., raking up and burning the trash, litter, and establishing better quarters for the animals. A thorough saturation of the wooden parts of the houses and pens, using some good disinfectant such as crude carbolic, or any of the coal tar disinfectants in at least a five per cent strength, mixing with it enough lime to make a white wash. Also sprinkle air slaked lime about on the ground, under the troughs, edges of the houses and about the fence corners.

When the above mentioned precautions are not carried out they act as predisposing factors to hog cholera, the most dreaded disease of swine in North Carolina. Vaccination is the only known means of protecting hogs against cholera, and the time to vaccinate is before sickness gets in the herd, to attain the best results. If every farmer in North Carolina would follow these precautions the annual loss that cholera costs this state could be saved and it would lead toward a higher devolepment of the hog raising industry, a matter that is so vitally needed.

NEWLAND SCHOOL BOARD PETITIONS LEGISLATURE

Wants State to Pay For Carrying Children to High Schools From Distant Points

Here is the petition of the Newland High School, of Newland Township, Pasquotank County, North Carolina, to the Senators and Representatives who represent Pasquotank County in the North Carolina General Assembly of 1921.

Whereas, it is stated that the matter of state aid in carrying children to school in the rural communities will come before this session of the General Assembly, and whereas, we believe it to be one of the most vital questions affecting Northeastern North Carolina we respectfully urge that you vote and work for this measure and do all in your power to secure its passage. We believe in this measure for the following reasons:

First, it is the only way to secure equality of opportunity. Consolidation of rural schools and the establishment of rural high schools are already rapidly going forward in this section and thruout the state; and these steps are conceded by all thinking people to be the solution of the rural educational situation. But consolidation leaves many children remote from the location of the schools and thus handicaps them in getting to and from school. Those children deserve the same opportunity as is afforded city children and country children who live near the school.

Secondly, the state says in its compulsory law that children between the ages of 8 and 14 must attend school. It is only a matter of justice and fairness to provide by state aid a way to carry this law into effect without working a hardship and inconvenience on the parents and children who live in the remote sections.

Thirdly, for the state to render aid in the transporting of children would almost certainly end the sometimes excusable opposition to consolidation which is found in the rural sections.

Fourthly, the burden of paying for all the costs of transportation is frequently too heavy for a rural community to assume when it has already taxed itself for the establishment of the rural high school, which often leaves a debt on the people. These country people deserve consideration from the state; and only thru state aid to transportation of pupils can they be put anywhere near on a level in education with the more favored sections of the state.

Lastly, the country people are willing to bear their proportion of the expense of aiding our institutions for higher education, although few comparatively speaking find their way to these institutions. But we respectfully submit that our educational structure should be built up from the bottom and opportunities for elementary education equalized. In that way, every section of our state will have an equal chance to prepare their sons and daughters to enter the larger institutions of learning; and those who cannot go further will have the advantages of a high school education. This is the only way to wipe out the blot of illiteracy and to make good our boast of equal opportunity.