

News Review of Current Events the World Over

France and Italy Reach Agreement as to Their Naval Strength—Seventy-First Congress Comes to an End.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



A. Henderson

DIPLOMATS and financiers, working steadily and persistently, have brought about an accord between France and Italy on the question of relative naval strength, and the probable result will be that the three-power London naval treaty will become a five-power pact. Thus the French and Italians will give up the idea of starting a building program that would compel Great Britain to increase her naval forces under the "escalator" clause of the treaty, and the United States and Japan would be relieved of the fear that their relative strength would not be maintained without a lively resumption of building.

Arthur Henderson, British foreign secretary, was most active in the final stages of the negotiations between France and Italy, making trips to Rome and Paris, and is given credit for excellent work. But it is admitted that the groundwork for the agreement was laid by Hugh S. Gibson, American ambassador to Belgium, who for several months had been laboring to bring the dispute to an end. Acting under personal orders from President Hoover, he held a series of private talks with Mussolini, Tardieu, Briand and others, and transmitted their various proposals to Rome and Paris and finally to the British.

The financial end of the accord consists in a long term loan to Italy, to be made by French and American bankers, which will really be a war debt moratorium in disguise. The Fascist government will receive perhaps three and a half billion dollars, which sum, it is said, will "save Italy from bankruptcy and put the country on its feet." Specifically, the loan will be used to retire and convert internal debt obligations, \$1,820,000,000 of which fell due on October 1 last. Mussolini's previous efforts to obtain long term loans from American and French bankers had failed because, largely, of the naval dispute with France.

While the terms of the Franco-Italian agreement were temporarily withheld from the public, it was learned in Paris that it provides that French naval superiority over Italy be reduced from 240,000 tons to 190,000 tons, most of the reduction coming from projected submarines and supersubmarines. It was agreed that the battleship tonnage allotted at the Washington naval conference would not be used for ships

providing \$116,000,000 for speeding up public work, including rivers and harbors, highway construction and other federal improvements.

Relief for drought-stricken areas, including \$20,000,000 for food loans, provided in measures embodying a \$65,000,000 loan fund; \$2,000,000 for rural sanitation activities; and \$3,500,000 of unexpended balances in funds for relief of flood-stricken states.

Program of federal public building construction increased by \$100,000,000.

Series of unemployment relief measures enacted, contemplating federal unemployment census, long-term planning of public construction to meet emergencies and federal co-operation in unemployment agency activities.

Additional soldier hospitalization facilities afforded in \$20,000,000 program.

Naval modernization bill, authorizing \$30,000,000 to remodel battleships Louisiana, Idaho and New Mexico, to meet standards prescribed by the 1922 Washington arms conference.

The seventy-first congress earned the one distinction of being the heaviest spending of all peace time congresses. In all, it appropriated approximately \$10,000,000,000 for government uses.

IN ITS closing days the congress enacted the Muscle Shoals legislation which would put the government into the power business, but President Hoover vetoed the measure, sending in a long and well argued message. The senate sustained the veto, the vote being 49 to 34, and the bill was dead. Mr. Hoover had predicted he would be accused of favoring the power trust, and members of congress did accuse him of this, and the incident, it was said, made it certain that the power controversy would be one of the major issues of the next Presidential campaign.

Mr. Hoover also failed to sign the Wagner bill for federal co-operation with the states in establishing a national system of employment exchange. It was understood he would "pocket veto" this measure, which would bring the number of his vetoes to fifteen.



IF YOU are to take the word of Henry H. Curran, president of the Association Against Prohibition, a majority of the people of the United States are now ready and willing to vote for the repeal of the Eighteenth amendment. In his annual

of America, is present custodian of the trophy for the War department.

CHAIRMAN RASKOB told the Democratic national committee at its meeting in Washington all about the wet policy which he thought the party should adopt, but said he would not ask action on his suggested platform until the next meeting. Dry members from the South vigorously opposed Raskob's views or any consideration of them by the committee. It was decided that a \$10,000,000 campaign fund should be raised.

LOW bid for the general contract on the Hoover dam and power plant in Boulder canyon was submitted in Denver by a combination of western construction firms—the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, and the government engineers recommended that this bid of \$48,890,995.50 be accepted by Secretary of the Interior Wilbur. Work on the project, the biggest engineering job ever undertaken in this country, probably will be started before the end of March.

Government officials, although asserting work would be hastened so unemployment conditions in the Southwest would be relieved, warned workers against a general migration to the Nevada-Arizona line dam site as there were 10,000 laborers on hand at Las Vegas, Nev. Estimates for construction forces ranged from 2,000 to 2,500 men at work at one time when the program gets into full stride.



Gen. Jadwin

ONE of the most eminent engineers of the American army, and indeed of the nation, passed on when Lieut. Gen. Edgar Jadwin, retired chief of the army engineering corps and chairman of the interocean canal commission, died at Gorgas hospital in Panama City. While in Ancon preparing to go to Nicaragua to survey the possibilities of a Nicaraguan canal, he was stricken with apoplexy, and a cerebral hemorrhage ended his life.

General Jadwin, who was born in Honesdale, Pa., in 1865, was graduated from West Point in 1890 and had a brilliant career in the engineering corps for nearly forty years, retiring in 1929.

He served in the Spanish-American war and the World war, but was best known for his peacetime work in the United States and in the Canal Zone. The Jadwin plan of flood control formulated after the disastrous Mississippi valley floods of 1927 was the army officer's most important work. The plan called for expenditure of \$325,000,000 and was opposed in congress, but finally passed with administration support.

VICEROY LORD IRWIN and Mahatma Gandhi, both making concessions, reached an agreement for peace in India, and the civil disobedience movement that had lasted for a year came to an end. The Nationalists looked on the pact as a triumph for the doctrine of non-violence. The British government though it yields con-

conference would not be used for ships of more than 25,000 tons. France obtained the right to build three 23,300-ton vessels of the super-cruiser type.

In return for superiority in global or total tonnage, it is believed that France gives Italy a slight superiority in light cruisers and torpedo destroyers, but retains supremacy in submarines. It was understood that Italy demanded the sacrifice of super-submarines in the French program and that France made the concession because its coastal submarines are sufficient for its present needs. France and Italy, it is understood, agreed on parity in 10,000-ton cruisers.

LEGAL proceedings are under way in Washington in the contest between President Hoover and the senate over the right of Chairman George Otis Smith of the power commission to hold that office, and the senate is represented by John W. Davis, who was Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1924. He was selected for the job by a subcommittee of the judiciary committee composed of Senators Norris, Walsh and Steimer. The proceedings are expected to add another chapter to the history of constitutional clashes between the executive and legislative branches of the government.

Selection of Mr. Davis as counsel for the senate assures a spectacular court test, with the former Presidential candidate on one side and possibly Attorney-General Mitchell on the other. The final decision probably will be rendered by the Supreme court.

WITH a filibuster in the senate and rather uproarious gaiety in the house, the seventy-first congress came to an end at noon, March 4. During its life it carried out fairly well President Hoover's program of legislation, despite frequent acrimonious clashes with the Chief Executive since last December. It is unnecessary to recount these disputes, for every one is familiar with them. In only two major affairs—the nomination of Judge Parker to the Supreme court and the recent veterans' bonus loan act—was the President defeated.

The important items of legislation during the third session included these:

Routine annual appropriation bills carrying more than \$5,250,000,000.

Emergency construction program,



John W. Davis

H. H. Curran report to the directors and 360,000 members of the association, Mr. Curran declared that the dry cause had not advanced an inch during 1930, while the wet movement had registered important gains. He asserted that the November election doubled the wet representation in the house and raised the senate wet group from 15 two years ago, to 22 at present. He said the house now has a wet vote of 160, compared with 76 in 1928.

SECRETARY of Agriculture Hyde denies that he is to blame for delay in distributing the \$20,000,000 drought relief fund. In a letter replying to a resolution introduced by Senator Caraway asking why Mr. Hyde had not begun the distribution, the secretary said:

"I have the honor to inform the senate that because of the extended debate upon the appropriation of \$20,000,000 contained in the Interior department bill, and because of the uncertainty as to the provisions of the act, it was not possible to work out the administration and accounting problems entailed until the act was finally passed and its provisions definitely known."

He explained the machinery which the department had set up in order to distribute loans through intermediate credit organizations and directly to the farmer.

"There exists now no reason why application for loans may not now be received and payment made shortly thereafter," he concluded.

MAJ. Ralph Royce of the army air corps is being congratulated on the announcement that he has been awarded the Mackay trophy for 1930. This is in recognition of the "Arctic patrol" which he led through severe winter weather from Selfridge field, Michigan, to Spokane, Wash., and return, in January, 1930. It was a severe test of the skill and stamina of the pilots and the stability of the planes and was successfully carried through.



Major Royce

The trophy, which is competed for annually by United States army officers under War department rules, was first presented 18 years ago to the Aero Club of America by Clarence H. Mackay. The National Aeronautical association, successor to the Aero Club

ment. In his annual report to the directors and 360,000 members of the association, Mr. Curran declared that the dry cause had not advanced an inch during 1930, while the wet movement had registered important gains. He asserted that the November election doubled the wet representation in the house and raised the senate wet group from 15 two years ago, to 22 at present. He said the house now has a wet vote of 160, compared with 76 in 1928.

ish government, though it yields considerable, probably gets none the worst of the bargain. By the terms of the agreement, it is understood, the Nationalists abandon their resistance movement and will work for qualified dominion status in the second round table conference. In return, their imprisoned members will be released and most of the confiscated property will be returned; they are permitted to conduct boycotts that do not aim specifically at British goods, and the poor natives along the coast are given the right to make their own salt.

The most important gain for the British was the point in which the Nationalists agreed to confine themselves at the next round table conference to the specified scope of constitutional questions elucidated by the first round table meeting in London. This commits Gandhi to the principle of a federation of Indian responsibility, but with British safeguards covering finance, defense, foreign affairs, the position of minorities and the discharge of India's national debts.

SIR OSWALD MOSLEY, wealthy British socialist, and his wife, Lady Cynthia, have broken with the Laborites and formed a new party of their own which asks for 400 candidates in the next election. The Mosleys especially attack the unemployment policy of the MacDonald government.

AL CAPONE, Chicago's public enemy No. 1, did not fare so well when he ran afoul of the federal judiciary there. Judge Wilkerson sentenced the notorious gang leader to six months in jail for contempt of court in excusing his non-appearance in court some time ago by pleas of illness at Miami. The case was appealed. Capone being released under bond.

SENATOR Arthur Capper's committee on food prices reported that it found "an alarming tendency toward the monopolistic control of the food of the nation by a small group of powerful corporations and combinations," the tendency being especially strong in the case of bread and milk. A careful scrutiny by the federal trade commission and the Department of Justice was recommended.

TWO new governments within a week for Peru! First a navy group forced Sanchez Cerro to resign and named Chief Justice Ricardo Eli provisional president. Then also came a bunch of officers and troops loyal to Cerro and out went Eli and his friends. The new army junta was headed by Col. Gustavo Jimenez