

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

Washington.—Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace seems to be making more progress in the direction of winning the Democratic nomination for President in 1940 than his fellow cabinet member, James A. Farley, in the opinion of shrewd observers here.

Farley took a terrible beating because of the business recession. The Postmaster General had a nice job all lined up, with the Pierce Arrow company, which would not only have put him in the money, but would have taken him back to the state that he must use as his springboard, New York, as the company is located in Buffalo. Further, it would have taken him out of the administration and made him a free agent politically speaking.

But with business as it is, Farley has the feeling of having been side-tracked, and right now of being virtually caged, watching the procession march on through the bars of his cell door.

As it stands, his friends feel, the best thing for Farley to do would be to run for governor of New York next fall. This would seem to be an easy line of attack for Farley. Governor Herbert H. Lehman certainly does not want to run again. In fact, he was persuaded to run, very much against his own will, only by the strong pressure of President Roosevelt, Farley and virtually the whole Democratic organization.

No other Democrat in the Empire state is an outstanding contender for the nomination. Farley is enormously popular personally, even among lots of people who do not love the President. Some friends of the President, notably Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska, do not think much of Farley's political methods, but there are not so many of these, apparently, in New York.

## G. O. P. Not Enthusiastic

There is another point here. Very few Republicans in New York are very enthusiastic about any particular candidate of their own for governor in 1938. Many of the big fellows will concede privately that they have no hope any more of rolling up a majority north of the Bronx which could possibly overcome that of the greater city, which, though not Tammany any more, is quite decidedly pro-Farley.

Also it just may happen that the campaign will become nationally interesting. It would be bound to, for example, if District Attorney-elect Thomas E. Dewey should happen to be the Republican nominee, and it is the general impression at the moment that Dewey can have that nomination if he wants it. Dewey just might mess up Farley's record and put him out of the presidential running for good and all, even though unable to defeat him, but that is a danger every White House aspirant must face again and again.

Wallace is reaching out for strength in various quarters, knowing that the conservative southern contingent will oppose him. For example, he entertained a group of about forty negro editors recently at a two-day convocation, all expenses, from travel and hotels to the final banquet when Wallace sat down with them, being paid for by Uncle Sam.

Naturally Wallace is also counting on farm support from all over the country. His friends think the conservatives will not get to first base opposing him.

But all this, of course, both as to Farley and as to Wallace, is based on the assumption—or perhaps the word "hope" would be more accurate—that Roosevelt will not seek a third term.

## Lack Understanding

Letters to senators and representatives from their constituents who happen to own securities in electric companies reveal a curious lack of understanding of how the law-making machine in Washington functions. What these investors want their congressmen to do, of course, is something to help their own corporations. They want specifically four things:

1. Repeal of the public holding company death sentence, or at least sharp modification of it so as to eliminate only the intermediate corporations.
2. Provision that any "yardstick" operations by which the government seeks to "show up" the privately owned companies shall be sharply circumscribed by conditions as to accounting, inclusion of pro rata taxes both federal and local, and inclusion of an equitable allowance for interest on the government's investment and for amortization of the cost, etc.
3. No further loans or grants to local communities to set up government ownership electric projects.
4. Clear policy on all existing federal power projects or others under construction that the current will be sold, at the switchboard, to the highest bidder.

Now there is probably a strong enough sentiment in both house and senate for all four of those things

to put them through—IF—they could be gotten to a vote in each house, and if congress believed President Roosevelt would sign the measures if enacted.

## See Thankless Job

But there is no such assurance. On the contrary, most congressmen believe positively that the President would veto any one of the four proposals that congress might enact. And there is no disposition on the part of the senators and representatives to undertake such a thankless job as to push such measures through only to have them killed by a veto—especially as no one thinks there would be a Chinaman's chance of mustering the two-thirds majority in both house and senate that would be necessary to override a veto. In the first place, there is doubt if two-thirds majorities could be rolled up even if there were no pressure from the White House against rolling them up, or from Jim Farley's machine.

Besides, there is no particular nutriment, politically, in doing battle for the utilities. There are many stockholders who would be pleased, but it is not the kind of fight that rouses popular enthusiasm. In the present state of the public mind, congressmen say frankly that they do not believe making such a fight would entail any particular danger. It would be down the same alley as changing the tax laws to give corporations more voice in their own management, which congress proposes to do despite the President's opposition.

But the best thing they would get out of it would be very small, politically. Whereas it would incur the enmity of the White House, mess up their patronage situations, and start the radicals singling them out as Tories. All this might be risked, many of them say, if the fight could accomplish anything.

But the security holders writing letters do not seem to realize the difference between stopping a new thing in congress, and repealing an old one. Or, in brief, the difficulty that overriding a veto adds to any congressional fight.

## Wage-Hour Bill

Eventual passage of a hodgepodge wage-hour regulation bill, satisfactory to nobody and irritating to more than it pleases, is still the prospect as this is written. That it is the prospect at all seems due far more to bloc log-rolling than to White House pressure, though getting the bill out of its rules committee pigeonhole was hailed by Democratic leaders as proving that the much heralded "revolt" against the administration had collapsed.

Before the alliance between the city bloc, favoring the bill, and the farm bloc, which, especially in the South, had been opposed, it looked as though the American Federation of Labor was about to do the bill to death. Its proposals to rewrite the measure, it so happened, would have eliminated the differential in favor of the South. This, it seemed, would withdraw just enough support to prevent passage. But the new army of supporters, won from the farm ranks by barter, changed this whole picture.

The curious part of this situation is that a majority of members of the house are virtually pledged to support this bill regardless of its form and regardless of what amendments may be adopted. This is not literally true, but is what the lineup will actually work out to be unless some one discovers a trapdoor somewhere, down which the whole mess could be dropped.

And the trap-door hasn't appeared yet.

This might not be so strange if anybody were really satisfied with the farm bill, the life of which was also saved by the log-rolling deal. In other words, if Southern Congressman A, for example, though the farm bill, which is to be passed would solve the agricultural problem and make for better times in the nation, he would be justified, perhaps, in agreeing to vote for a wages and hours bill which he thought fairly bad, if that were the only way he could make sure of getting the farm bill.

## Expect the Worst

But there is no such person as this mythical congressman who wants the farm bill badly enough to vote for a poor wages and hours bill. If there is anybody in Capitol Hill who really thinks that farm bill is likely to be a good one when it is finally enacted, some very industrious scouts have failed to find him or her.

And the same thing, almost double, goes for the wages and hours regulation bills. There is a possibility, of course, that this wages and hours bill will be completely redrafted, rules to the contrary, notwithstanding, by the conference committee after the house and senate send it to conference. The conferences are fairly able, and may do a workmanlike job.

Nobody much will like their product. That is almost too much to hope for, but it will probably be a great deal better than if they were to deal as closely as the rules provide to the line of the house and senate measures.

Probably the wages and hours bill would still fail if it did not have the technical advantage of having passed the senate. Many folks out in the country criticize the senate for talking so much, but if the wage-hour bill had to run the senate gantlet now it would probably emerge a very much better, still—if it got through at all.

© Bell Syndicate. WNU Service.



Malta, Comino and Gozo.

## Malta Is Great Britain's Base In Middle of the Mediterranean

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

**M**ALTA, Great Britain's mid-Mediterranean base, is an island of palaces and churches, and the governor of Malta is probably more interestingly housed than any other colonial administrator.

In Valletta he has, though it is now mainly used for official purposes, the massive Palace of the Grand Masters, with its magnificent state apartments, its armory with one of the finest collections of armor in the world, and its tapestry chamber with a superb set of Gobelin tapestries. These were made for that very room at the end of the Seventeenth century by order of the Spanish Grand Master Perellos and they are as well preserved in coloring and texture as if they had been completed yesterday.

The throne room served as the original chapter hall of the British Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, and is adorned with a contemporary frieze depicting various incidents in the siege of Malta.

Adjoining one side of the palace is the library, the last building of importance to be erected in Malta by the order and containing a notable collection of manuscripts, books, charts, deeds, and armorial bindings connected with the order. The archives of the knights, dating back to the period of their rule in Rhodes, which Bonaparte had not time to remove, are housed in another of the departments of the government.

Except in the hot summer months, the governor usually resides in the Palace of San Antonio, between Valletta and Notabile, whose gardens, open to the public, are celebrated.

The summer residence is the lordly feudal castle of the Sixteenth century that dominates the southern end of the island and was built by the splendor-loving Verdala, the only one of Malta's grand masters who was at the same time a cardinal of the Roman church. This moated fortress is surrounded by the Boschetto gardens, containing the sole wood in these islands so bare of trees. There Verdala and guests were wont to hunt the gazelles which he imported from the north African mainland.

## Auberges of the Knights.

The Knights of the Seven Languages, or nations (later eight), into which the order was divided, were lodged in their several auberges, or hostels. These auberges, magnificent buildings for the most part retaining their original features unimpaired, are still in use. That of Italy now is the museum; that of Castile, the finest of all, serves as naval and military headquarters; that of Auvergne houses the courts of justice; that of Provence, with its magnificent dining room, the Union club. The Anglo-Bavarian Auberge is a school, those of Aragon and France serve government purposes.

The division into Langues, so characteristic of this international Order, is manifest also in the sumptuous Co-cathedral of St. John in Valletta, among whose principal features are the richly decorated chapels set apart for each of the Order's component nations. What with these, and its tombs of the grand masters, its heraldic paving stones of members of the order, and its tapestries likewise given by Grand Master Perellos, not to mention the Brussels factory, some woven from cartoons by Rubens, St. John's is one of the most brilliant churches in Christendom.

Beautifully crowning a rocky scarp that rises picturesquely almost in the middle of the island, the small fortified burgh called Mdina in Maltese is one of the most unspoiled of all medieval and Renaissance towns. It also is known by its other names of Notabile, or Citta Vecchia, because King Alfonso of Aragon called it the most notable jewel in his crown. It was the capital of Malta before the knights came and Grand Master La Valette built the city which bears his name.

## Nobility of Malta.

Consisting almost entirely of convents, churches, and the roomy, stately palaces of the Maltese nobility, surrounded by a moat and by a complete enclosure of walls and bastions that rise superbly above the plain, with narrow, shadowy streets along which sandaled friars pad their silent way, streets so narrow that the sky appears above them only as a narrow streak of

blue, Notabile is indeed a gem of a bygone era and a haunt of ancient peace.

Malta has its own nobility, recognized by the Court of St. James', with an official precedence granted by the Maltese government and its own committee of privileges.

There are 25 of these Maltese peerages, most of them feudal titles granted by the grand masters, but one of them goes back to the Fourteenth century. The present holder of this venerable title and the premier noble of Malta is the Most Noble Mary Inguanez, baroness in her own right of Diar-il-Bniet and Bukana.

This lady resides in an ancient and beautiful palace in Notabile. The Baroness Inguanez represents, among many other families, the ancient Maltese clan of Scerberras, which once owned the promontory on which Grand Master La Valette built the city of Valletta. The head of the Scerberras family at that time, so tradition has it, generously gave the land on which the grand master's palace was erected, to be held by the grand masters on a perpetual leasehold for the annual payment of five grains of wheat and the offering of a glass of water from the palace well.

The water was to be offered to the head of the Scerberras family by the grand master himself in the hall of the grand council, now the throne room, or Hall of St. Michael and St. George.

It is a peculiarity of the Maltese titles that, although they include the ranks of marquis, count, and baron, there is no distinction in seniority between the ranks, precedence being determined solely by the date of creation. Some of the titles are sonorous in the extreme, as examples will show: marquis of St. George, Marquis Testaferrata Olivieri, baron of Gharixem and Tabia, baron of Benuarrat, marquis of Gni-en Is-Sultan, count of Ghain Tuffleha.

## Maltese Are Good Farmers.

The principal industry of the islands is agriculture, and the Maltese, despite the stony nature of their land, are skillful and industrious farmers with a wonderful knack of extracting the utmost from the soil, despite methods still somewhat primitive. Maltese potatoes and Maltese oranges have a high reputation, vegetables are good, while wheat does well where there is room to grow it. But the islands can produce only a fraction of their annual consumption of cereals, and much has to be imported from outside.

Among the most typical of the modern survivals from the era of the knights are the underground granaries in the open space between Valletta and Floriana. These are sealed with round stone lids and still are used for conserving the island's stocks of imported grain. The lacemaking industry is traditional, and cloth is beginning to be woven from locally grown cotton. The countryside cannot be called grand, but Malta itself, and still more the sister-island of Gozo, are pleasantly green in winter and a rich red in March and April when the clover is in flower. Later the freshness of winter and spring gives way to a brown aridity.

Cicero referred to Malta as a land of honey and roses, while the Maltese like to call their country the "flower of the world." This term, if held to refer only to scenery and vegetation, might seem to verge on the excessive. If it be taken to apply to the many-sidedness of Malta's interests and amenities, it is not altogether without justification.

## Solidly Built Up of Stone.

Because of the density of population, the paucity of soil, and the abundance of excellent building stone, which in the course of ages takes on a beautiful golden patina, the proportion of Malta's area that is built on is exceptionally high.

And every corner of the islands is eloquent of the history of the Knights of Malta. In towns, villages, and even the tiny island of Comino, from whose stony fields, where is cultivated the cumin seed from which the island takes its name, there rise the massive square keeps which they scattered throughout their territory.

The villages, called casals in Malta, are not villages in the ordinary sense. They are compact stone townships of tall houses and narrow streets, solidly built in good substantial baroque architecture and sometimes holding a population running into five figures.

## Tuberculosis May Follow Flu

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON  
© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

**W**HEN a flu epidemic passes by we are all naturally grateful that, notwithstanding the great number of cases, there have not been as many deaths as in some previous epidemics, the one of 1918-1919 being particularly in our minds.

And yet just what the flu leaves in the way of general ill-health, general fatigue, chronic cases of heart disease, chronic inflammation of the sinuses and other ailments cannot be estimated.

For instance, influenza may be followed by pneumonia or pleurisy. "One-fourth of the total non-fatal cases of tuberculosis date the onset of the disease during the year following an attack of influenza and more than one-half of the cases are thus associated with either influenza, pneumonia or pleurisy."

Thus the flu, by weakening the individual's resistance, may be considered a forerunner of tuberculosis and patients should take real care of themselves for some time after recovering from flu.

## Watch for These Signs.

In fact any infection or ailment that causes a run-down condition, or if the individual is not careful about watching sleep, exercise, food and fresh air, he becomes predisposed to tuberculosis.

"A patient is likely to acquire, or having acquired, at least may develop an active tuberculosis when he is anemic (thin blood); when he is underweight; when he has a tendency to recurrent or frequent colds, especially recurrent bronchitis; when he does not quickly recover from any simple acute infection, whether it is flu, measles, or whooping cough; when he does not recover quickly from pneumonia or pleurisy."

"A child is considered predisposed to tuberculosis if he is pale, has a tendency to eczema, or has enlarged tonsils or adenoids, and especially if he has enlarged glands in the neck."

## To Increase Weight.

"There is likely something wrong with the health of one who is either too thin or too fat. What we call normal weight is associated with a store of fat sufficient to give the body that symmetry which we associate with a sense of well-being. Graceful contour can only exist when there is sufficient padding of fat beneath the skin to eradicate depressions and irregularities of surface. The fat around the kidneys helps to support them, and a normal fat deposit in the mesentery (the connective and fat tissue that holds the abdominal organs suspended from the spinal column) helps to keep the stomach and intestines in their proper position. A normal fat reserve is a great protection against cold. It is one evidence of a state of good nutrition."

When one reads the above statements from one of the foremost nutrition experts, Prof. E. V. McCollum, Johns Hopkins university, it would appear that fat, which is the bugbear of so many men and women today, is really something that we should all try to accumulate.

However, just as too much fat is a menace to health, so also is a lack of "sufficient" quantity to supply the actual needs of the body from the standpoint of health and appearance.

While decreasing the food intake will definitely decrease weight in every case—which may be dangerous to life if food is cut down too much—the increasing of food will not definitely increase weight in a great many cases. This means then that in trying to increase weight other factors besides increasing food must be considered.

Many underweights are worriers, anxious about everything, afraid to eat certain foods, afraid of constipation and so unduly purge themselves. "They are the restless, active and overconscientious people who habitually work beyond their capacity because their strength is so limited."

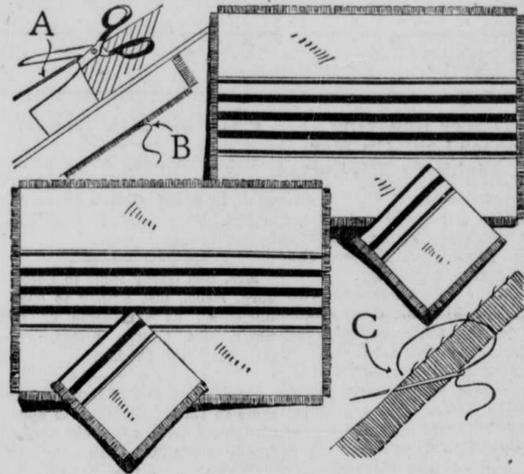
It has long been known that rest is as good as food in building up weight, just as too much rest will put on weight in those who are trying to reduce weight by reducing the food only.

But in addition to physical rest, mental rest is necessary also in building up weight and so these thin individuals must learn to attain calmness of spirit also. This is why a holiday often increases weight in thin individuals, as they, for the time being, "leave their cares behind."

The thin individual in addition to making sure of mental and physical rest, should be examined by physician and dentist to make sure that there are no infected teeth or tonsils which may be sapping strength and preventing the normal increase in weight.

# HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



Make Luncheon Sets of Striped Material.

**T**HE napkins and mats are fringed and then whipped to keep them from raveling and to strengthen the edge. This is a very quick and easy finish to use for linens of the coarser weaves and is in harmony with peasant dishes and provincial furniture.

In cutting the material for the mats and napkins it is best to pull a thread to guide you so that the edges will be perfectly straight and fringe easily. Cut right along the little opening made in the material by drawing the thread as shown at A. Plan the size of the mats and napkins so that the material will cut to good advantage and the stripes will arrange themselves in a pleasing way through the center of each piece. Napkins for this purpose may be as small as nine inches square though many people like them a little larger than this. The mats are usually about eleven by eighteen inches.

Put out the threads to make the fringe at the edge as I have shown here at B. From a half to three-quarters of an inch is a good depth for the fringe. Save the threads

you pull out and use them for whipping the edge as I have shown here at C.

Every Homemaker should have a copy of Mrs. Spears' new book, SEWING. Forty-eight pages of step-by-step directions for making slipcovers and dressing tables; restoring and upholstering chairs, couches; making curtains for every type of room and purpose. Making lampshades, rugs, ottomans and other useful articles for the home. Readers wishing a copy should send name and address, enclosing 25 cents, to Mrs. Spears, 210 South Desplaines St., Chicago, Illinois.



**That Too**  
A man boasted that he had been in every hospital in town. "Impossible!" said a friend. "What about the women's hospital?"  
"Yep! I was born there."

**Poor Fish**  
Waiter—Are you the fried flounder, sir?  
Diner—No, I'm a hungry sole, with an empty plaice, and I'm waiting for something to fillet.

**Certainly**  
Daughter—But, dad, don't you believe that two can live as cheaply as one?  
Father—Your mother and I live as cheaply as you do.

**You can't catch cold from leaving off your bad habits.**

**That's Me**  
O'Flanagan (to hospital attendant)—Phwat did ye say the doctor's name was?  
Attendant—Doctor Kilpatrick.  
O'Flanagan—That settles it. No doctor wid that name will get a chance to operate on me—not if I know it.

Attendant—Why not?  
O'Flanagan—I'm Patrick.

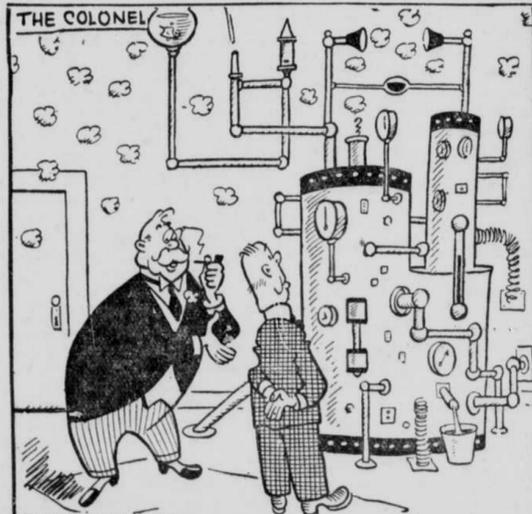
**Fly in the Ointment**  
Attorney (to wife seeking divorce)—How long have your relations been unpleasant?  
Wife—My relations have always been as nice as pie. It's his who've caused all the trouble.

**CHEW LONG BILL NAVY TOBACCO**



LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher



Copyright by Fred Neher. "I'd like to take out a patent on it, but I'll be darned if I know what it is."