

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington.—The dollar, backed by \$10,985,000,000 gold reserve, is the keystone of the new Anglo-French-American system for stabilizing currency exchanges.

The Treasury department, working out technical details of the tri-power monetary agreement, said a selling price for gold would be announced only by the United States.

Although gold will flow freely between the stabilization funds of all three nations, France and England will keep their selling prices secret, treasury officials announced.

The American price remained at \$35 per fine ounce, though it may be changed on twenty-four hours' notice if necessary to protect internal prosperity.

When America buys gold from Great Britain or France, Treasury authorities said, the price will be arrived at by private negotiation.

If bullion is purchased from the British stabilization fund, they suggested, the price probably will be close to the current quotation on the London free gold market, operated by private dealers.

In the case of France, they said, there is no definite indication at what price sales might be arranged. France has no free gold market, and has not yet fixed an exact basis for its devalued franc. Recent French action merely cut the value of the currency somewhere between 25 and 34 per cent.

Large Wheat Acreage

Another large wheat acreage is in prospect in this country, the bureau of agricultural economics said in its summary of world wheat prospects.

It pointed out that wheat prices are more attractive than at seeding time last year or this spring. Seedings for harvest in 1936 of both winter and spring wheat were approximately 74,500,000 acres, the largest on record except for 1919. Abandonment and crop loss due to unfavorable weather were exceptionally large and resulted in small production relative to acreage sown.

If yields of the crop for harvest in 1937 turn out to be one-fourth below average, the same acreage as seeded for harvest in 1936 would produce fully enough wheat for total domestic utilization.

If yields should turn out to be near average or above for the 1937 crop, in view of present seeding prospects, the bureau said, "production would be in excess of domestic requirements and prices in the United States would fall to export levels."

Winter wheat seeding in this country is making good progress generally and the early seeded grain is coming to a good stand. During the past month the winter wheat belt, except in some northwestern districts and in the Pacific Northwest, has generally received sufficient rain to condition the soil properly for seeding, germination and early growth.

Insure More Mortgages

Contrary to seasonal trends, residential mortgages accepted for insurance by the Federal Housing administration on new construction during September showed a rise of 147.8 per cent over the same month last year and 5.1 per cent over August, 1936. Deputy Administrator William D. Flanders reported.

Mortgages approved for insurance last month on new homes totaled \$18,263,950 against \$17,367,789 in the previous month and \$7,370,524 in September a year ago.

Last month's figure for all types of mortgages accepted was the second highest monthly total since the FHA began functioning, reaching \$44,316,900 on 11,174 items, Mr. Flanders pointed out. The only higher month was last June, when the total was \$50,156,258. The rise for all types of FHA insured loans over the same month a year ago was \$23,031,502, or 108.2 per cent.

One of the chief causes for the upturn was held to be the increasing number of private financial institutions lining up with the FHA program and making insured loans. There also is a wider demand on the part of borrowers for this type of mortgage, Mr. Flanders said.

September operations of the FHA included insurance on 43,789 modernization loans totaling \$19,394,303, the largest in several months.

Total insurance business of the FHA as of September 30 included 120,245 home mortgages accepted for insurance for a total of \$481,360,088; 1,195,956 modernization and repair notes insured for \$444,670,660 and insurance on thirty-two large-scale housing projects for mortgages aggregating \$45,851,000.

Road Building Cost

The United States bureau of public roads announced that construction work costing \$131,133,227 was either completed or initiated during the past year in the campaign for safer railroad crossings.

With the \$200,000,000 of emergency relief funds allocated last year for grade crossing work, the bureau reported that 2,097 crossings will be eliminated, 320 old grade-separating bridges will be rebuilt

and 1,037 crossings will be protected by installation of warning and safety devices.

Forty thousand men have been given employment on the projects, while 68,000 were given indirect employment in the production and transportation of materials and equipment, the bureau said.

During the past year, 281 bridges to carry highways under or over railroads were completed; 136 highways were relocated so as to avoid crossings, and protective devices were placed at twenty-nine locations at the cost of \$18,203,462.

In various stages of construction October 1 were 830 new bridges, the reconstruction of 162 inadequate existing structures, the relocation of 246 highways and the installation of protective devices at thirty-three crossings at the cost of \$112,929,765.

Construction will start soon on 174 new and thirty-six reconstructed structures, seventy-nine highway relocations and 624 protective installations at an estimated cost of \$27,816,526.

Work listed as "programmed only" consists of 341 new and seventy-five reconstructed structures, fifty-seven relocations and 351 protective installations to cost an estimated \$43,649,963.

Liquor Mark Set

Distilled liquor withdrawals from bonded warehouses, considered to represent consumption, amounted to 10,063,778 tax gallons in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, a reduction from the 41,946,201 barrels of the years before, but otherwise higher than in any year since 1918.

The 1936 withdrawals of fermented malt liquors, chiefly beer and ale, amounted to 41,890,967 barrels in the fiscal year 1936, a reduction from the 41,946,201 barrels of the years before, but otherwise higher than in any year since 1918.

Cigarette production set an all-time record in 1936, 141,834,738,730 having been withdrawn on the payment of tax. This compared with 128,490,692,940 cigarettes the previous year.

Judging from trends since the first of July, the liquor and tobacco taxes probably will net the government in excess of \$1,200,000,000 in the 1937 fiscal year. At the rate of collections so far this fiscal year, liquor taxes would yield around \$623,000,000 and tobacco taxes \$555,500,000.

It was expected, however, that, with gradual gain in business activity and purchasing power, these figures would be exceeded.

Maritime Commission

The new maritime commission appointed to administer the ship subsidy act found its schedule of work loaded with important problems.

Immediate action was necessary on the west coast longshoremen's strike situation. Requests were dispatched to shipowners and the union, asking that a 60 day extension be made on the contracts between employers and workers which expired September 30. This extension would give the commission an opportunity to confer with other government departments concerned and make an impartial investigation in hopes of settling the labor disputes amicably.

The commission has no direct authority over longshoremen. Its powers in the west coast situation are limited to regulation of minimum wages, hours and working conditions of seamen on subsidized ships. It desires to intervene in the longshoremen's dispute only as an interested party.

Another duty of the commission will be a scrutiny of 600 regular employees of the shipping board bureau and the merchant fleet corporation. These employees will continue their regular work for a six month "probation period," after which they may be replaced or certified for civil service ratings.

The commission will begin two studies of vital importance to American shipping. It will determine whether any existing trade routes are "nonessential" and should be stricken from the federal subsidy list. It will soon analyze cargoes, foreign competition, revenues, construction and operating costs, and other factors which will enable it to construct a yardstick for allocating subsidies.

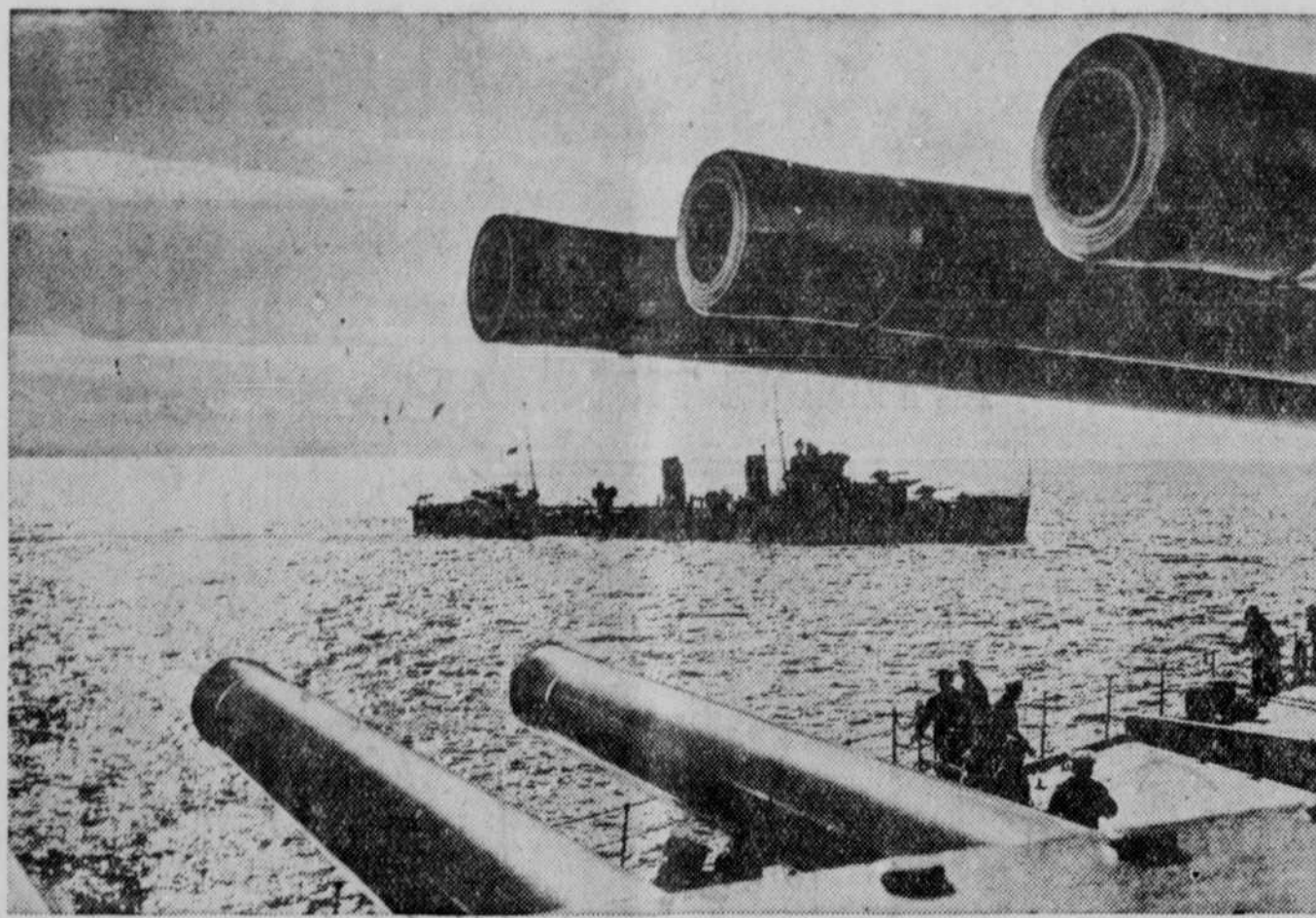
National Forests

Approval for purchase of 392,665 acres, to cost \$1,946,171, to be added to the national forests, was given by the National Forest Reservation commission, Secretary of War Woodring, president of the commission, announces. The purchases are divided among 45 national forest units located in most of the important forest regions of the United States. The Mary's Peak area, on the watershed of Corvallis, Oregon, was one of the most important purchases authorized.

The commission also approved purchase of the Keosauqua national forest nursery near Ottumwa, Iowa. It consists of 99 acres formerly rented by the government and used for propagation of trees for planting in the national forests in Mid-western states. The boundaries of the Chattahoochee national forest in Georgia were extended to include the Lookout mountain area of 294,000 acres, and the Armuchee area of 250,000 acres, situated in the Southern Appalachians in the Tennessee river basin in Georgia and Alabama. No land was bought in these additions.

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Teeth of British Lion Bared for Action



The 16-inch guns of H. M. S. Rodney, pride of the British navy, make an impressive picture, symbolical of the British lion's teeth all bared for action. The photo was made off Invergordon, Scotland, where the fleet was engaged in gunnery practice. H. M. S. Encounter is in background, silhouetted by the setting sun.

Dare Devil Driver Takes Trophy



George Vanderbilt, the donor (left), is shown presenting the new Vanderbilt cup to Tazio Nuvolari, Italian driver, who won it recently, on the new corkscrew Roosevelt raceway, in competition with 44 of the world's most noted daredevils of the jalopy sport. In the 300-mile race, on the 4-mile twisting track, Nuvolari led all the way and got all lap prizes except one.

STAR BALL CARRIER



Marty Glickman, sprinter of the United States Olympic team that went to Berlin this summer, is one of the fastest ball-carriers on the Syracuse university football squad, Syracuse, N. Y. Marty is a half-back.

MRS. "WALLY" SIMPSON



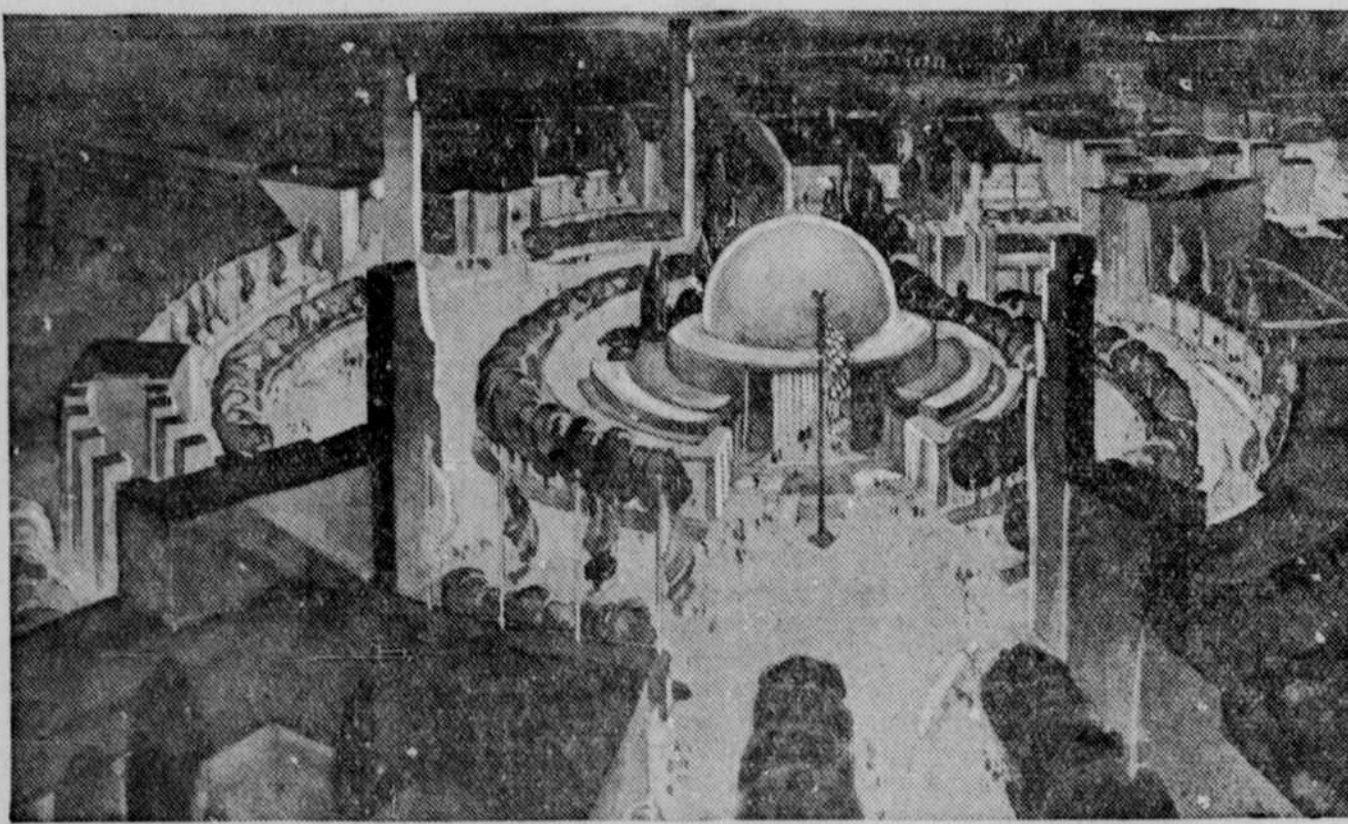
Mrs. Ernest "Wally" Simpson, American-born friend of England's bachelor King Edward VIII, who filed suit for divorce against her husband in London. Mr. Simpson announced he would not contest the action which was said to be a "friendly one." The American girl was married to Simpson, a British subject, in 1928.

New Aquatic Sport Is Introduced



A new type of aquatic race is introduced as part of water sports at fashionable Arrowhead Springs, Calif. Pretty contestants are pictured on the edge of a pool, propelling forward inflated horses and riders with a kick of the foot. This is the championship team. In action, (left to right) Vera Scarmella, Dorothy Barnes, Mary Gilhooly, Phyllis Bradshaw, Gene Coney, Lucy Ellis, Jean Flint, Frances Bussey. Their rider is Adalyn Skeen.

Where Stars Will Shine at New York's 1939 Fair



Planetarium which it is proposed to erect on New York's World's Fair grounds. On its dome Fair visitors will see a miniature sky studded with stars and planets. Intricate machinery will move the heavens at will. It will be possible, for example, on the day the Fair opens, April 30, 1939 to duplicate the celestial display which George Washington saw just 150 years earlier on the night of his inauguration, April 30, 1789.

Keystone State



Pretzel Benders in a Reading Factory.

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

WHEN historic Georgetown, D. C., still was the metropolis of the north bank of the Potomac and the city of Washington was little more than a beautiful plan on paper, a bridge was thrown across Rock creek to connect the two.

There were 13 stones on the face of the arch of the bridge. Upon them were inscribed the abbreviated names of the 13 states that had created and successfully defended the Union. On the keystone of that arch were the letters "Pa."

Whether that was the origin of the nickname of the Keystone State or only testimony of its earlier use remains a matter of debate, but the sobriquet was aptly descriptive of its role in American history and industry.

The congress that gave America its Declaration of Independence met, deliberated, and acted on Pennsylvania's receptive soil. The convention that forged the Nation's Constitution labored amid that Commonwealth's genial atmosphere.

The financial wizard who averted the economic disaster which threatened to overwhelm the young nation was that patriotic Pennsylvania banker, Robert Morris.

The fine old philosopher and master of humanized science who won international recognition for the struggling child among nations, and brought us alliance with France, with history-changing consequences, was the revered and picturesque Ben Franklin.

So it has been through the generations. When ship sails no longer met the demands of maritime commerce, Robert Fulton, a native of Pennsylvania, laid the foundations of steam navigation around the world.

Development of Its Industries.

The industries of the Atlantic seaboard became so vast that wood no longer served for fuel, and Pennsylvanians developed their coal resources.

Pittsburgh's Scotch-Irish empire builders expanded the iron industry to a point where Pennsylvania practically equipped the factories of the Mississippi valley and produced both the rails and the rolling stock of the nation's railroads.

When whale oil and other animal fats and oils no longer yielded adequate lubricants and illuminants, it was in Pennsylvania, at Titusville, that Col. E. L. Drake drilled the first oil well, thus helping revolutionize the world's ways of living and making possible the present motorized transportation.

Pennsylvania's industrial pioneers inaugurated the reign of steel, thus ushering in the era of skyscrapers in a thousand cities, and the speeding of traffic on the railroads of the country.

To the present hour, the land of William Penn goes forward as one of the foremost industrial communities of the world. Before the depression it was making one-fifth of the world's electrical machinery, refining one-sixth of its sugar, mining a like share of coal, and producing an equal proportion of the world's steel.

The federal census of manufactures shows that among the nation's 51 major industries Pennsylvania ranks first in 17 and holds third place or better in 15 others.

In 42 of the nation's products its factories lead those of every other state. From artificial limbs to zinc products these wares of Pennsylvania's primacy run the gamut of the alphabet. In such diverse industries as coal mining, chocolate and cocoa manufacture, pig-iron production and silk making, steel rolling and wool pulling, cement grinding and lace weaving, coke burning and hosiery knitting, Pennsylvania is first by a wide margin.

Romance In Its Story.

Pennsylvania's history is filled with stirring chapters. The story of its wild life, from the days of primal abundance to virtual extinction and back again to abundance under intelligent human protection, is a true romance of forest and stream. The tenacity with which the many religious sects, drawn there by the broad tolerance of the founder, have adhered steadfastly to their centuries-old customs, constitutes a fascinating story of quaint survivals in a progressive age.

Within Pennsylvania's borders are more people born of native white parents than in any other state of the Union. It has nearly a million more than New York, its closest rival, although the total population of the Empire State is approximately three million greater. In fact, the people of native-white parentage in Pennsylvania exceed the total population of any other

state with the exception of New York, Ohio, Illinois, Texas and California.

The Pennsylvanian's tendency to migrate is no new phenomenon. For more than a century and a half its restless citizen families have been moving from the old home rooftree, and, with their children and their children's children, have pushed out to the changing frontiers of the country. Their first outpouring was in the colonial period, when large numbers moved down into the Shenandoah valley of Virginia and into western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

This was the migration which carried the Lincolns and the Boones, the Caldwells and the Calhouns, the Prestons and the Christians, the Rutledges and the Breckenridges, to say nothing of that large group of Lutheran, Reformed, Dunkard, and Mennonite pioneers who settled in the Ohio valley and its highlands.

As Ohio and Kentucky and the states beyond opened up to settlement, migrants from Pennsylvania turned westward in regiments; there they were joined by sons and daughters of their uncles and aunts, who had so largely settled western Virginia, eastern Tennessee, and western North Carolina—ever onward to help open new areas of plenty.

Some day a historian will write the saga of the role of Pennsylvania and its descendants in the settlement of the Mississippi valley, and America will realize the debt it owes to the fecund folk born in or descended from Penn's Land who spread over the continent and played such a vital role in the greatest of our valleys.

Leads in Home Ownership

Although Pennsylvania has furnished more migrants than any other state in the Union, both in the colonial era and up to the present time, the state is still America's foremost land of home owners. The last census shows more dwellings occupied by their owners than in any other state, a total of 1,198,000 owner-occupied homes. Even New York with one-third more population loses rank in this regard.

When William Penn came to America, he had title to some 28,000,000 acres of woodland, mountain, and dale. For a dozen decades these forests yielded only to the settler's ax and his new-ground ripping plow. Then larger towns and cities began to grow and there was born an insistent demand for lumber.

This havoc went on until there was left in all the 28,000,000 but a beggarly 20,000 acres of virgin timber. The lumberman had left his tree tops and his sawdust piles to make the most dangerous of fire hazards on millions of acres and to render a thousand streams unfit for fish life.

Forest fires completed the destruction, and millions of blackened, barren acres stood as mute witnesses of the profligacy of man in wasting one of the Commonwealth's principal assets.

Floods became more frequent, since barren lands cannot hold back water and give it a chance to soak into the ground. Low-water stages of streams occurred oftener; springs in barren lands cannot collect sufficient water to keep the streams fed in dry weather. Fish by the millions perished when streams were transformed for long periods into dry river and creek beds.

Forest Lands Restored.

Then the thinking citizens of Pennsylvania awakened to the menace the wasteful methods had wrought. State agencies and private interests joined in reforestation and in protection against forest fires.

Today one finds that thirteen millions of acres in the Keystone State are accounted to be forest land. A major portion is in young trees. Wander along the Delaware river, through the Poconos, follow both branches of the Susquehanna and cross their watersheds, travel the Roosevelt highway across the state from east to west, dip down to Emporium, Williamsport, and Jersey Shore, climb Bald Eagle, Tuscarora, Laurel Hill, and South Mountain, and you will begin to understand why some one has proposed that Pennsylvania be renamed the Sapling State—because of its tremendous number of young trees.

Reforestation is beginning to bear major fruit. Floods are becoming rarer and less destructive, for water is absorbed instead of rushing pell-mell riverward. Springs constantly fed by seeping water in turn fill the streams with a more constant current. Fish are accordingly increasing in substantial numbers due to steadier stream flow, seasonal restrictions, bag limits, and artificial propagation.