

# This Week in Washington

Washington, Jan. 13. (Autocaster) — From any point of view, the most important happening in Washington since the Roosevelt Administration took office, is the decision by the supreme court that the crop control features of the Agricultural Administration Act, both in the original law and the amendments passed last summer, are unconstitutional.

The federal government, the high court held in its six-to-three decision, has no power to regulate agriculture. That is one of the rights never delegated to the congress, and therefore specifically reserved to the states by the 10th amendment.

It was a far more sweeping decision than most Washington observers had expected. The administration was prepared for a ruling that the processing taxes and their distribution in benefit payment to farmers for crop reduction were not constitutional. Indeed, the main purpose of the AAA amendments of 1935 was to get around such a possible verdict by the supreme court.

**Sweeping Decision**

After declaring that the processing taxes and their distribution in benefit payments were beyond the power of congress, because they were not applied to the "general welfare" but to a "limited class," and that congress had improperly delegated to the executive the appropriation of public funds, the decision, read by Justice Roberts, went farther still. The heart of the matter, he pointed out, lay in the purpose of the AAA, and that purpose, the regulation of agriculture, is clearly unconstitutional, because it is an attempt on the part of the federal government to exercise rights reserved to the states. Justices Brandeis, Cardozo and Stone dissented from the majority opinion.

The case before the supreme court was that of the Hoosac Mills, in protest against the processing tax on cotton. But so broad was the court's decision that it is regarded here as applying to the Bankhead cotton control act, the potato control amendment, as well as the wheat, corn-hog, tobacco and other federal efforts to control agricultural production. The decision prohibits any attempt to enforce any part of the AAA program.

Processors need not pay any more processing taxes; the farmers cannot receive any more benefit payments. It is doubtful that those who have paid the processing taxes can recover them from the government, or that the government can collect back from farmers benefit payments already made.

### Budget, War, Probe

The supreme court decision threw into the shade the president's budget message, which was handed to congress at the same hour that Justice Roberts began to read the court's decision. Mr. Roosevelt's estimates were divided into two sections, "regular" expenses of government and relief expenditures.

The president estimated the federal income from all sources at \$5,654,000,000 for the next fiscal year, which amount he figured would leave \$5,000,000 surplus. But he declined to put a figure on the relief requirements, which he said would run from one billion to three billions, and he made no allowance for the bonus payment, which nobody in Washington doubts that congress will authorize speedily.

Mr. Roosevelt's speech to the congress on Friday evening, January 3, which was broadcast all over the world, is held to have been the opening gun of the 1936 presidential campaign, as well as a notice to the rest of the world that they need not count on any help from Uncle Sam if they start another war. The neutrality issue is very much to the fore on Capitol Hill.

If Senator Nye of North Dakota has his way—and that seems likely—the administration, of whatever party that happens to be in power when and if the expected European war breaks out, will have no leeway whatever. It must stop all exports of anything but food and medical supplies to any belligerent nation, and keep American ships off any part of the high seas where warring nations warn them off.

On the theory that the United States was drawn into the last war by the machinations of international bankers, the senate committee is to investigate the whole subject of munitions of war. It has summoned all the partners in J. P. Morgan & Company to appear for questioning.

### Political Gossip

The latest purely political gossip bearing on this year's presidential campaign is the suggestion that the conservative democrats may put a third-party ticket into the field for the purpose of slicing off a lot of President Roosevelt's support among the rock-ribbed partisans of his own party who nevertheless don't like the New Deal. If they could induce Al Smith to head up such a ticket, some of the smart ones here think, the scheme might work. Mr. Smith is to speak in Washington on January 25 under the auspices of the American Liberty League. He is expected to express himself very vigorously, but whether anything will come of the idea of having him head a third ticket is rather doubtful.

Third-party talk of the opposite extreme is also heard in many circles. The Townsend threat of a radical third-party movement with old age pensions for everybody as its main plank is beginning to be taken more seriously. It is far too early to be definite about its prospects of getting anywhere.

It is hardly necessary to add that the republican leaders are watching with great interest, if not actually encouraging, both of these potential

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third-party movements. And numerous leading republicans were observed to be giving three rousing cheers when the news of the supreme court decisions came down. Again, however, it is too early to estimate what effect that may have on Mr. Roosevelt's chances for re-election.

### MATE SWAPPING ARRANGED

Reno, Nev.—The way was cleared for one of the most unusual marital "deals" in Reno's history—a exchange of husbands by two pretty young California women. Nothing remained in completing the trade save trips to the altar following the granting of divorce decrees to Mrs. Gladys J. Burnett and Mrs. Desiree D. Werder.

Mrs. Werder, second of the "husband swappers" to seek a divorce here within a week, divorced William M. Werder, former Stanford university track star. Mrs. Burnett divorced Roy E. Burnett, Jr., last Friday. Thru Harry Swanson, their attorney, the women admitted they plan to marry each other's husbands "as soon as the excitement of the divorce blows over."

### PLANS STERILITY INQUIRY

San Francisco.—Criminal proceeding by the district attorney's office in the Ann Cooper Hewitt sterilization case appeared certain when District Attorney Brady announced he would take the case either before the grand jury or a committing magistrate.

Dussell P. Tyler, attorney for the 21 year old heiress who charges her mother, Mrs. Maryon Hewitt McCarter, had her illegally sterilized in a money plot, was steadfast in his stand that the girl should not sign a criminal complaint against her mother and the doctors she holds responsible for the operation. Brady said he would not decide before Wednesday which course to pursue, but committed himself to definite criminal procedure.

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## Murray

Teddy Baker and wife were visitors in Plattsmouth last Saturday.

Henry Vest was a visitor in Nebraska City last Saturday, being called there on some business matters.

L. D. Crosser was called to Omaha last Monday for some repairs and on his return brought back a truck load of gasoline.

Mrs. Lester Long, who has been home for some two or three weeks, continues to show improvement, which is very pleasing news to her many friends.

William Griffin, who has been visiting for the past week with his brother Art Griffin of Atlantic, Iowa, where the brothers enjoyed a fine visit together.

Carl Kell, of Plattsmouth, was a visitor in Murray last Monday afternoon, having some business matters to look after here and also visiting his many friends.

Frank Vallery, of Omaha, was a visitor in Murray last Friday evening, coming down from Plattsmouth, where he had been looking after some business matters.

Ernest Vallery and his friend, William Vest, who were looking after business matters and visiting friends at Topeka, Kansas, for a short time, returned home Saturday night.

Thomas Nelson was in Omaha last Sunday, going to visit his son, Lawrence Nelson, but on his arrival there found the son was in the southern part of the state looking after some business.

Frank Rhoden, who has been one of the leaders in the movement to drill for oil in this vicinity, stated it will not be long now before active work will be started, drilling, the derrick and equipment being in readiness for the start.

Lee Nickles was a visitor in Murray last Saturday, coming to look after business matters and visit his brother, George E. Nickles, who has been in poor health for the past two weeks, but is now feeling considerably better.

Hon. W. B. Banning, of Lincoln, was a guest last Saturday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Nickles, taking six o'clock supper together and enjoying the evening, after which Mr. and Mrs. Banning continued on down to Union, where they spent Sunday with their friends and neighbors.

There has been much corn shelled and delivered to the Murray elevator during the past couple of weeks, as the weather has been just right for best handling of the grain. The work of corn husking in this part of the country is now practically completed, and many are utilizing their crop in the feeding of cattle, which, at present prevailing prices should prove a prosperous undertaking.

G. M. Minford and wife were in Plattsmouth last Monday, where they completed arrangements for their departure for Florida, where they expect to spend the remainder of the winter months. They will leave in a few days. Mr. Minford sold one-half interest in the service station at the Murray corners to Douglas Tilson, who will operate the station in the absence of Mr. Minford in the south.

**Have Returned Home**

Mrs. Margaret Brendel and son Richard, who have been visiting at both Sergeant and Rising City since before the holidays, returned to their home here the fore part of the week. Their visit was considerably prolonged on account of Mrs. Brendel being taken down with the flu and having to remain until she was able to make the return trip safely.

**To Meet January 22**

The Ladies Aid of the Christian church have arranged to hold an all-day meeting at the parlors of the church on Wednesday, January 22, when they will look after various matters of routine business as well as plan for the coming months and doing everything possible to aid the forthcoming revival meeting, which will then be in progress, as it is scheduled to begin next Monday, and continue to February 2.

All members are urged to attend this important meeting.

**Missed Seeing His Brother**

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Merritt, former residents of Union, who have visited on the west coast and in Kentucky since they left Cass county several months ago, have now returned and are planning to make their home in Murray. Their visit on the west coast was at Pacific Grove, Calif., where a brother of Mrs. Merritt, Wayne Lewis, formerly of Murray, resides. They spent several weeks there and were located within a block of a filling station operated by a brother of Mr. Merritt, whom he had not seen since he was four years of age and

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did not recognize. After concluding their visit in the west, they journeyed into the eastern section of the United States, for a visit at Mr. Merritt's old home in Kentucky. It was upon their arrival in the latter state that Mr. Merritt learned of the fact he had so narrowly missed renewing acquaintance with his brother in the west. Among the relatives they planned to visit in Kentucky was a sister of Mr. Merritt. (When they went to visit her, they found she had just departed for the place they had been visiting, and so missed connections there. The sister was taken ill on her arrival at home, with pneumonia, and when her condition became serious, Earl and wife were called back to her bedside, arriving two hours before her death.

Their impressions of California were not the very highest and they say they like Cass county best. While in Kentucky, Earl enjoyed some fine quail hunting and on his return to Nebraska brought with him a blooded Kentucky bird dog.

**A Grand Old Man**

Joseph H. Burton, who is soon to reach the age of 87 years, and who has made his home in Murray since the town was organized, is keeping house himself and doing all his own work, yet finds time to meet his many friends with a cheery smile and a happy greeting, making the day more pleasant for those whom he meets. He is getting much enjoyment out of life and through his cheery good nature radiates happiness to those with whom he comes in contact. That is just about the best secret we know of "How to live to be 100." And may our good friend go on living happily and contented until the final call is sounded.

ray are joining hands and efforts in a most co-operative manner. A get-together meeting was planned to begin the new year in fine shape, and the business men and citizens of Murray proved such a great success that a number of other similar meetings will be held during the coming twelve months.

Carl D. Ganz, Alvo banker, was secured as the principal speaker at this initial meeting and there were other interesting numbers on the well planned program. A fine supper was served by the Missionary band of the Presbyterian church.

**BUTTER FIVE CENT BREAD**

Kansas City.—Residents of several midwest cities buttered five cent bread as an indirect result of the death of the AAA. In Chicago, Oklahoma City, Kansas City, and other points in Missouri, Kansas and Texas, the cheaper loaf was sold by at least one chain grocery company. Independent bakers generally did not join in the reduction immediately.

"The price of flour has been reduced \$1.35 a barrel by the removal of the (AAA processing taxes)," a Chicago firm announced, "and we are passing the savings on to the consumer." A Kansas City announcement said invalidation of the farm program, and an effort to bolster a declining bread market, brought the reduction.

In Chicago a chain reduced the price of the one pound loaf from 6 cents to 5. The company in Kansas City sold a 12 ounce loaf for 5 cents, a reduction of one cent. Price of the pound loaf was cut from 7 cents to 6 cents.

See the goods you buy. Catalog descriptions are flowery enough, but how about the goods when you got them?

**Showing Good Improvement**

Mrs. Sadie Oldham, who has attained the advanced age of 86 years and who has lived a long and active life, being an untiring worker, with a record of more than eighty years spent in this immediate locality, is reported as being some better, following her serious illness of the past fortnight. Her strong constitution, coupled with good nursing and medical aid have combined to bring about the change in her condition, news of which will be most pleasing to the many friends of this good woman.

**To Hold Revival Meetings**

A series of revival meetings will be held at the Christian church here, beginning next Monday, January 20, and continuing until Sunday evening, February 2. The services will be in charge of Rev. J. S. Reel, evangelist, who is pastor of the Pawnee City Christian church. He will be assisted by the local pastor, C. Loyd Shubert. Rev. Reel comes highly recommended as a man of deep spiritual insight, and much good is anticipated from this series of meetings.

The subject of the opening night's sermon, Monday, January 20, will be, "Seeing Jesus." Special music at all the services and the public is cordially invited to come and hear the gospel expounded in true evangelistic style.

**A Fine Co-Operative Spirit**

The old saying, "United, we stand; Divided, we fall" was never more true than in this present day of competition and fight for business. A group of earnest workers, united to do their best for the advancement of their home town can really work wonders, but, on the other hand, if there is even just a little dissension in the ranks the labors go for naught. It is with a full realization of this that

**'Returns From Death'**

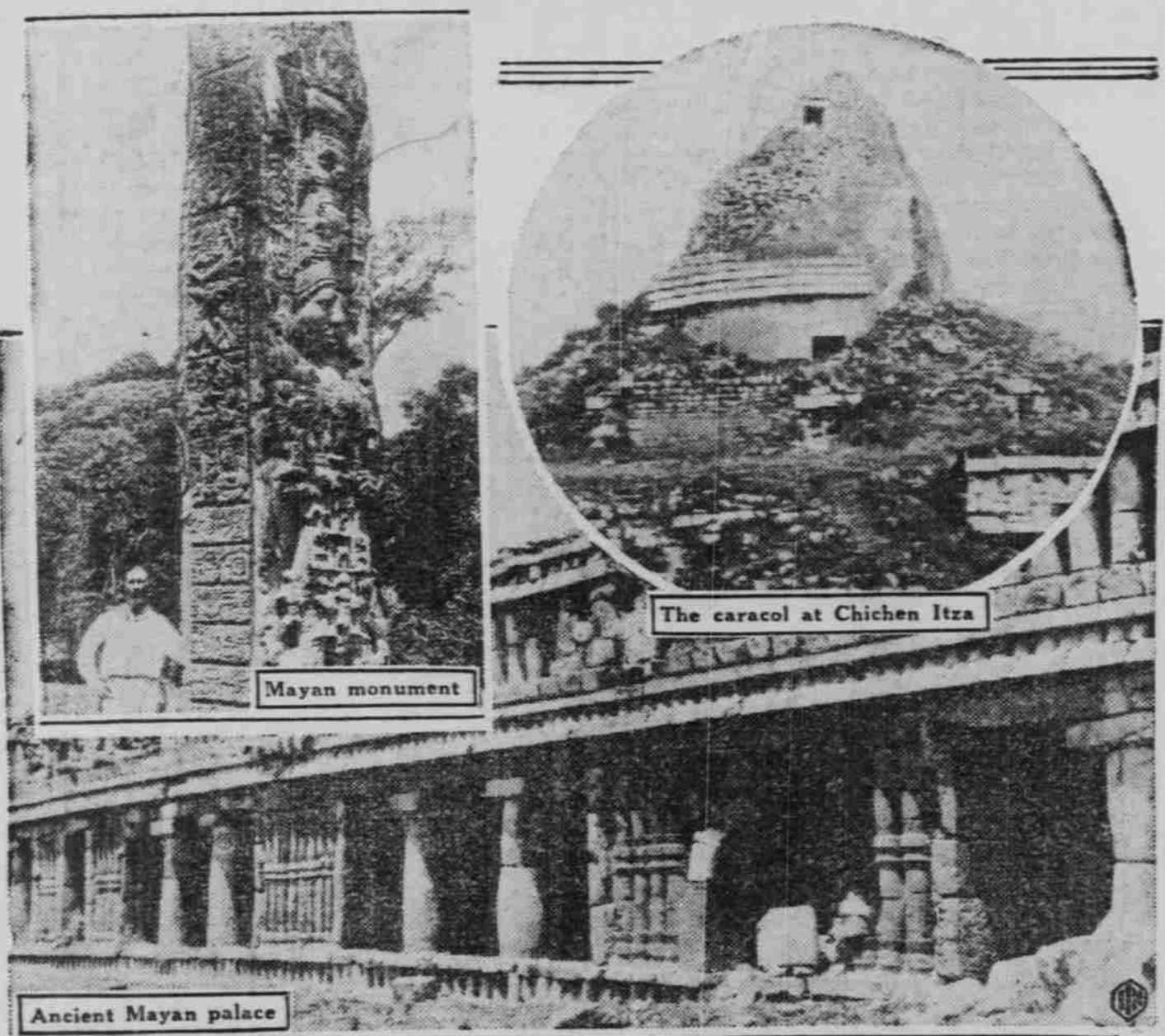


Frank Owen

Announced dead by doctors on Dec. 24 when he was badly injured in Chicago by a taxicab, Policeman Frank Owen "came back to life" when adrenalin was injected into his heart and now on the road to recovery. "It's a swell to be alive again. I was dead, death is just a bump," said Owen.

## New Explorations Throw Additional Light on Mysteries of Mayan People

### Exploration of Central American Jungles Reveals Ancient Race to Have Been Remarkable Builders



By JEAN ALLEN  
International Illustrated News  
Feature Writer

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Recent publication of a report by the Carnegie Institution of its expedition's work in restoring sections of the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza calls attention to the extensive research now being carried on into Mayan history. One of the most interesting structures left by the Mayas is the caracol, a tower within a tower standing on a double platform of stone. The Carnegie expedition's work in restoring this ruined tower has supported the conviction that it was once used as an observatory.

This theory gains credence from the fact that the Mayas were sun worshipers and were, no doubt, students of cosmic phenomena. It is possible that the building served the dual purpose of observatory and temple since the religion of the strange race was closely bound up with the sun and seasons.

**Language Baffles Students**

It might have been that the caracol was used by the priests to study the course of the sun that they might advise the Mayan farmers when the

position of the heavenly bodies was favorable to planting their crops. The accuracy of the Mayan calendar also testifies to the astronomical ability of this race whose history dates back centuries before Columbus discovered America.

Chichen Itza is one of the most unusual of the many Mayan cities which dot the dense jungle growths of Central America. The ruins which have been partly restored by the Carnegie expedition provide an admirable illustration of the extraordinary artistic and architectural talents of the Mayas.

Archeologists have been handicapped in their study of the Maya civilization, however, because the writings and carvings left behind on stone tablets and statues have never been deciphered. Recent discoveries have advanced the hope of scientists that they will be able to understand the language of this ancient race in time.

**More Ruins Discovered.**

New Mayan cities are constantly being discovered, many of them almost obliterated by the jungle growth, others hidden in mountainous recesses far from modern civilization. Each new discovery has

brought added proof of the unusual building activity of this race whose civilization dates from some time about the date of the birth of Christ to Columbus' discovery of America.

A field agent for a California museum recently brought back evidence of an even more ancient race which inhabited the northern section of Mexico and plans are under way to send an expedition to this district.

Considerable light has been thrown on the Mayan race by the expedition of the University Museum of Philadelphia which concentrated its activities at the ruins of Piedras Negras in Guatemala. The comparative accessibility of this ancient city made it possible to bring out, for the first time, some of the ponderous monuments in Mayan creation.

The practice of the Mayan builders of filling in old structures and building over them has made it possible for archeologists to trace the development of Mayan architectural style and to some extent record the history of the race itself. Much remains to be done, but the progress made in recent years in unraveling the secrets of the ancient Mayan civilization suggests rapid strides in the near future.