New York Tomes, The May 14, 1935

Editorial page

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A CURIOUS SUPERSTITION

Patriots, doubtiess by arrangement with other patriots, have been raining telegrains into the White House begging or commanding Mr. ROOSEVELT not to veto the Patman Bonus Bill. The politico-clerical charmer of Detroit diffuses the same sort of message, half-entreaty and half-threat. That either suasion or intimidation will have any effect at this eleventh hour would seem to be believed by the practicers of this common form of direct democratic "approach" or "action."

The most familiar things are sometimes the strangest. To suppose that the President, having made up his mind and resolved to take a particular course, can be made to change it by a multitude of telegrams or the notes of a radio performer is an eccentric supposition. Logic is kicked out of the window and emotion takes its place. In an organized hunt for the money which, the Government doesn't owe logic would make a poor figure. In the Congress districts the bonus belongs primarily to politics, a business essentially illogical except so far as it relates to the attainment and distribution of office.

This tremendous discharge of telegrams is an old habit. It is good for the telegraph business. On that ground it is to be approved. It is putting if its mite toward recovery. Perhaps if is too much to call it a superstition May it not be considered a kind of "property" of the political stage. Shabby as it looks the actors must pretend to take it seriously even if no body in the audience does.

LENGTH OF THE SESSION

In Washington the first days of heat always start discussions of the date when Congress will adjourn. President TAFT once remarked with a chuckle that there was nothing in the Constitution about hot weather shortening a session of Congress, but that the effect was there just the same. It was reported a few weeks ago that President ROOSEVELT hered for adjournment by the end of May. That too flattering prospect has long since been abandoned with a sigh. The brightest hope now, left is that Congressment may start home by the end of June. That would mean the necessity of crowding

train, delegations of farmers are new moving on Washington to befriend or to criticize AAA. That organization, one of the first of the New Deal agencies to be set up in the feverish Spring of 1933, celebrates its second birthday this weak. The task assigned to it two years ago by Congress was to restore a pre-war "parity" Jetween prices of goods the farmer self-and of those he buys. Wheat, cotton, corn and other farm commodities had all fallen much further during the depression than manufactured goods, and the result was a partial paralysis of farm purchasing power.

entered office the index number of farm prices, as computed by the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics, stood at 55—with 100 representing the pre-war average. On the same scale the index of goods the farmer buys stood at 101. In other words, farm purchasing power was only 54 per cent of the desired "parity." We now find two years later, that partly because of the effect of NRA on costs of industrial production, prices of goods the farmer buys have risen from 101 to 128. But prices of goods the farmer produces and sells have risen still more rapidly, and now stand at 111. Accordingly, farm purchasing power has now reached 87 per cent of "parity." compared with the 54 per cent existing when the Government changed hands in Washington. That is a remarkable and highly important change within the price structure, though only a rare enthusiast would credit it entirely, or perhaps even primarily, to AAA. Drought, devaluation of the dollar, the natural rebound of prices from a panic level and other influences have all played a part in the result.

Despite the substantially higher prices for farm products now prevailing. AAA finds itself under sharp attack at the end of its second year Criticism is made of the processing tax of the risks of stimulating more active foreign competition for work markets, and particularly of the whole philosophy of curtailing farm production. But this philosophy, it is fair to say, is not an invention of the professorial mind running wild in Washing ton. The enormous surpluses of unwanted farm goods which piled up during the first years of the depression won many friends for the doctrine of curtailment. Thus the Republicate party, which now shrinks in horror from the "regimentation" of the farm er, declared in its 1932 platform tha "the fundamental problem of Ameri "can agriculture is the control of production to such volume as will bal "ance supply with demand," and specifically plumped for "control of the acreage of land under cultivation."

Such curtailment, instituted by AAA, rewarded by the payment of cash bounties and reinforced by highly unfavorable crop weather, has largely dissipated many of the huge surpluses which hung over the market in 1932. It is probable that AAA's third year will witness some relaxation of its con-

eign trade which Secretary Wallaci has always described as the logical alternative to crop restriction. charges of company profits. The part of reason is equipment on not consistence

PILSUDSE

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In that higher the may read the new Constitution which Phisubskit prescribed for Poland and the new forcigin policy which he may not have worked out in person but which it is hard to think he did not help to determine in its main features. The Constitution puts such sweeping powers into the hands of the President of the Republic that it seemed to many people-sonly preparatory to Phisubski's assuming the office for himself. It now seems likely that he knew he would not live to be President, and the new fundamental law with its highly centralized authority and its elaborate safeguards against sectionalism and factionalism may we' represent Phisubski's best wisdom for a country traditionally exposed to such a country traditional traditional exposure traditional exp

The same reasoning would apply this foreign policy, which at one times seemed to have taken Poland out of the French camp and plub ged her interests. The contention at Warsav has been that a realistic view of Poland's interests demanded such course. The ten-year hon-aggression pact with Germany gave her time to sink deep her national floundations are organize her resources. Pilsubski knowing his own end to be near, might well insist that to avoid entangling a liances was his country's greatest need if Hitler had ulterior motives in signing his ten-year pact, why, so might poland have something; in the back of her mind. For the moment she needed peace. Pilsubski's policy was alway dictated by a realistic view of his country interests.

He may have been in practice a dictator, but he was after all the founde of the nation over which he ruled wit a strong hand. He enforced discipling but he did not reduce his countryme to serfs or automata. The civic liber ties have not been suppressed in Poland as they have been in other authoritarian States, and the people has no been deprived of all apprenticeship for true self-rule in the future. His treatment of the minority races was just and kind. These two circumstance should make it easier for his successor to maintain integral peace and carron the work of national consolidation

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