

# NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

## Franco-German Contest Grows More Intense and Britain May Break Entente.

## LIBERALS LOOK TO AMERICA

### Prospects in Near East Are Slightly Improved—Pork Barrel Senators Roused by President's Opposition—Investigation of the Veterans' Bureau Is Probable.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

THE senate has adopted a resolution submitting to the states a constitutional amendment under the provisions of which the President and vice president would be inaugurated the third Monday in January after their election, and the newly elected congress would begin functioning the first Monday in January. Does this plan to make the government almost immediately responsible to the will of the voters meet with your approval?

IN THE face of increasing opposition from the Germans, the French are displaying a corresponding increasing determination to have their way in the Ruhr. Moreover, they last week let Great Britain know that they wished her either to co-operate to a certain extent or get out of her way. Minister of Public Works Le Troquer and General Payot, in charge of communications in the Rhineland, went to London to ask that the British turn over to the French a strip of the occupied territory in order to control the direct rail route for coal from the Ruhr. The demand was rather embarrassing to the British government, which cannot make up its mind whether or not to withdraw its troops entirely from the Rhine. It is believed such withdrawal would be ordered at once were it not for the fear that the immediate result would be the setting up of a buffer state there with the support of the French. General Godley, commanding the British at Cologne, favors remaining there as long as possible for this reason only. It is said that in a recent report to Downing street Godley pointed out the impossible military position of the British on the Rhine through Mr. Bonar Law's repudiation of the French policy on occupation, warned the cabinet that the British forces were liable to be mixed in the French and German clashes, if they became widespread, and drew attention to the fact that the French were likely at any time to violate the British zone by transporting poles across it.

PRIME MINISTER BONAR LAW and Lord Curzon, in the parliament debates on the King's speech, both expressed disapproval of the French policy. Mr. Bonar Law said the British troops might have to be recalled at any hour and that this meant the almost certain rupture of the entente. He told of the London and Paris conferences, saying that from the first he saw it would be impossible to agree with France, because the French themselves had two aims which were incompatible. They wanted money, but they feared to allow Germany to become strong enough to pay. They were determined from the first to seize the Ruhr, although they were going to get nothing out of it, but because French public opinion would be satisfied with nothing less. On the question of reparations the prime minister said the French feared to fix any sum which the Germans would be able to pay off in a reasonable time, fearing they would then be able to prepare for a war of revenge. Marquis Curzon, addressing the lords, was equally certain that the French policy is unsound, and closed his speech thus: "America, strong as her views are,

or less inconsequential debate. An amendment, offered by Robinson, of Arkansas, was accepted, limiting the present legislation to the agreement with Great Britain and providing that congress and not the President shall approve of other funding arrangements.

DETERMINATION of a majority of the senate to have \$56,000,000 expended on river and harbor improvements may possibly lead to the calling of an extra session of congress after March 4, in order that the army appropriation bill may be passed. President Harding, according to various reports, thought he had discovered a way to circumvent the pork barrel brigade and planned to instruct the Department of War to spend no more than the \$27,000,000 which the budget bureau recommended, and to turn the balance back to the treasury. This made the pork senators exceedingly angry and they let it be known that they would organize a filibuster and prevent the passage of the army bill unless they received satisfactory assurances that the entire \$56,000,000 would be expended. Senator Caraway of Arkansas was the recognized head of the crowd making this threat. He asserted in the senate that the President was making a bluff in order to win votes for the British debt settlement and the ship subsidy measure.

Secretary of War Weeks said that President Harding had given no directions regarding the expenditure of money appropriated for rivers and harbors.

"That would not be necessary," said Secretary Weeks. "I saved a large amount of money last year on the war department appropriation but I had no specific order from the President to do so. The fact that the war department engineers told congress, as required by law, that they could expend \$56,000,000 this year on river and harbor improvements, is in no sense a recommendation that this amount should be expended."

ON MOTION of Senator Walsh of Massachusetts the senate adopted a resolution citing charges of waste, extravagance and mismanagement made against the veterans' bureau and directing the special committee which investigated the treatment of disabled ex-service men in 1921 to report on the advisability of instituting a new inquiry into the affairs of the bureau. For some time a snarlup in the affairs of the bureau have been expected, and it is believed in Washington that this is now at hand. It was heralded by the resignation of Colonel Forbes, the director, who is now in Europe. Probably he will be succeeded by either Col. George E. Hays, assistant director, or Dr. L. B. Rogers, now in charge of the medical division.

MRS. MAE ELLEN NOLAN of San Francisco was sworn in last Monday to succeed her late husband, Congressman John I. Nolan. She is the third woman member of the present house. Her election was also to the next congress, of which she is now the only woman member-elect.

ACCORDING to a resolution adopted by the Fascist council in Rome presided over by Premier Mussolini, "A man cannot be a Fascist and a Mason at the same time. The Fascist who belongs to a Masonic lodge must resign from either one or the other organization." The reason for this stand is that the Masonic orders in Italy are largely political and Fascism does not admit of any other political power which has been organized into a secret party. Moreover, the Italian Masons are too much internationalists to suit the Fascist, who are supernaturalists. The head of the Scottish Rite Masons of Italy is Count Paleani, and he has asked all its members to obey the Fascist order for the good of the country.

ALMOST the entire country suffered last week from the coldest cold wave of the winter. Snowed temperatures and icy gales prevailed and train service in the northwest was demoralized for several days. In the such a huge institution and its affairs are so complicated that to pass any judgment on its management in advance of a complete inquiry would be worse than foolish.

Patrick  
Rev. Newt Marr failed to fill his regular appointment at Pleasant Hill Sunday, on account of the snow and bad weather.

Luther Reid has recovered from a severe attack of the flu. His brother, George, has visited him from Englewood, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Shearer visited Mr. S. C. Ledford and family Sunday afternoon.

The flu is still raging down on Camp Creek, near the Tennessee line. Mr. William Burger and family are down very ill. John Picklesimer is waiting on them.

Ben Rose and family have moved down nearer Pleasant Hill on his farm.

Pearlie Brown is doing some fine business with his saw mill.

Miss Vesta and Allie Hamby have been visiting their relatives at Madisonville and Knoxville, Tenn.

Sunday school at Shearer school house Sunday. Everybody invited to come and take part.

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MURPHY NORTH CAROLINA

THE government is preparing for participation in the Pan-American conference that opens March 25 in Santiago, Chile, and eight eminent gentlemen have been named as our representatives. The government, in response to a question from a South American nation, has declared against broadening the scope of the Pan-American union so as to include any nation or group of nations not located within the two American continents. The intimation was that the League of Nations might be willing to be represented in the union. The administration said it was desirous that there should be co-operation between the Pan-American countries and the league or any other agency that promised better international understandings, but that official representation of the league at the forthcoming conference did not appear to be in harmony with the purposes for which the Pan-American union was organized.

After two months of successful work the Central American conference in Washington came to an end last Wednesday. A treaty of peace and amity, eleven conventions and three protocols designed to bring about closer relations were signed.

OUR little "army of occupation" from the Rhineland arrived safely at Savannah and was given a boisterous welcome. Sixty-three of the boys brought with them German wives, while five of them had Belgian spouses and three proudly introduced French wives.

THE house committee on immigration has approved a bill revising immigration quotas downward and including a provision which would prohibit the immigration of the Japanese. The measure apparently will cut the number of aliens admissible in any one year to 180,437, as against 358,837; but the number will be increased by the operation of provisions designed to prevent the division of families.

The senate passed a bill authorizing admission into the United States of Armenian refugees, with special provision for admitting up to 25,000 Armenian orphans under sixteen years of age.

THE Ku Klux Klan must be checking in its myriad throats over the troubles that beset Tolerance, the Chicago organ of the association organized to combat the Klan. The publishers and editor of the paper are fighting among themselves, and now several more or less prominent Chicagoans have sued the publication for large sums for alleged libel because they were stated to be members of the Klan or applicants for membership.

TWO serious mine disasters occurred on Thursday. At Dawson, N. M., an explosion entombed 122 miners, and it was feared nearly all of them would perish. A blast in the Cumberland mine on Vancouver Island, B. C., killed 18 men and injured as many more. In both cases the actual cause of the explosion was unknown.

ONE of America's leading astronomers, Edward W. Barnard of the University of Chicago and the Yerkes observatory, died last week at Williams Bay, Wis. His discovery of the fifth satellite of Jupiter in 1892 brought him international fame and recognition.

Birch  
Mr. Stanley Green of Murphy visited his father Sunday.  
Mr. Charley Campbell visited O. P. McClure Sunday.  
Mr. Clifford Hall, who is employed at the head of Hangingdog Creek, at a saw mill, was in our midst Saturday and Sunday.  
Mr. T. P. McClure, of Marble, visited his mother, Mrs. E. M. McClure, of this place, Saturday.

A. O. Mashburn made a business trip to Murphy Saturday.  
Mr. A. C. Barton, who has been on the sick list for some time, is now taking a special treatment at Murphy.  
Mr. Newlywed—I want to get a nice bunch of roses for my wife. How much will they cost?  
Florist (married man himself)—I can tell much better if you'll describe the nature and violence of the quarrel.—American Legion.  
Professor (after trying first class hour)—Some time ago my doctor told me to exercise early every morning with dumb-bells. Will the class report tomorrow before breakfast? Dismissed.—Froth.

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