

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Hoover Moratorium Plan. With French Modifications, in Effect—Great Britain Calls Conference to Work Out Details.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



Julius Curtius

MUTUAL concessions by the United States and France, obtained by clever negotiation, resulted in the acceptance of the Hoover moratorium plan in principle by the French government. All other important nations already had accepted, so President Hoover announced that the plan might be considered as in effect as of date of July 1.

Briefly summarized, the agreement provides that debtor governments shall be relieved of payments due between July 1, 1931, and July 1, 1932, aggregating approximately 800 millions of dollars. Germany will be relieved of reparations payments to the former allied and associated governments totaling nearly 400 millions of dollars.

Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, and other debtors will be relieved of war debt payments approximating 400 millions.

The greatest sacrifice will be made by the United States, which will forego war debt receipts totaling 200 millions.

Beginning July 1, 1933, the deferred reparations and war debt payments will be paid in installments during a ten-year period, in addition to the regular current payments.

Payment by Germany of conditional reparations totaling 245 millions will be unreservedly suspended. Germany will be required, however, to pay the unconditional reparations, amounting to \$130,000,000, with the understanding that this amount in full will be loaned back to Germany.

A loan of about 25 millions will be made to Central European countries if necessary by the federal reserve banks of the United States and European central banks.

The accord reached was entirely satisfactory to both the Americans and the French. President Hoover gained his chief point, the gist of the whole plan, for Germany does not have to pay any international debts for one year. The French statesmen congratulate themselves because the accord calls for the moral support of the signatories in getting a private loan for France's central European friends, and lays upon Germany moral responsibility for not using her moratorium saving for armaments.

Foreign Secretary Julius Curtius and Chancellor Brüning of Germany, of course, are pleased beyond expression, and the former paid warm tribute to the work accomplished in Paris by Secretary Mellon. The German press, however, professes to be disgusted with the compromise, several influential papers declaring that it wrecks the plan entirely.

In concluding his announcement of the agreement, President Hoover touched on the question of world disarmament, which he considers the second feature of his program for restoring economic prosperity.

HAVING ably seconded Mr. Hoover's effort to bring about the moratorium, the British government called a conference of the powers to work out the details of the plan. The premiers and foreign ministers are to meet in London, and it is expected Secretary Stimson will participate as an official observer when he reaches England.

This conference will meet from time to time for several months. It is understood, and may continue to function for several years.

VICE PRESIDENT Curtius came out in the open in earnest opposition to the policies of the federal farm board, and, in company with Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas, went before Chairman Stone and Carl Williams of the board to urge that it change its stand concerning its wheat holdings. The two Kansans argued for hours that this wheat should not be put on the market until the price reached 85 cents, but Mr. Stone refused to make any such pledge. He did state, however, that the board would not offer any of its wheat at the present low prices. But he made

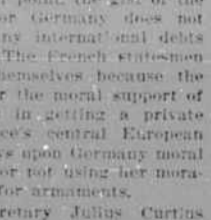
it plain that the board would abide by its policy enacted July 1, which was that it would feel free to sell up to a cumulative maximum of five million bushels a month for the next year.

Mr. Curtius' activity in the controversy over the board's wheat holdings has been interpreted as indicating a desire on his part to avoid re-nomination for the vice presidency and to run for the Kansas senatorship which he formerly held. When asked about his political plans, he replied "They'll not get anything out of me for at least three months."

Senator Watson of Indiana, Republican leader of the senate, also has been trying to influence the farm board, arguing for 92 cents, which is said to be the average price paid by the stabilization corporation for its wheat, as the figure below which the board should not sell. Senator William E. Borah, insurgent Republican of Idaho and chairman of the agricultural committee named at the "progressive conference" last March, has insisted that the board defer all sales until wheat goes to \$1.25.

SECRETARY OF STATE STIMSON is having a pleasanter time on his European vacation than has fallen to the lot of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, starting too late to get mixed up in the moratorium negotiations. Mr. Stimson arrived at Naples Tuesday on the steamship Corte Grande, accompanied by Mrs. Stimson. He was met by Ambassador Garrett, and, following a visit to Pompeii and Herculaneum, went to Rome by automobile. Thursday evening he called on Premier Mussolini at the Palazzo Venezia and later met him at a dinner given by the American embassy. In Mr. Stimson's honor the ruins of the ancient Roman Forum, just beyond the Capitoline hill, were brilliantly lit up at night.

The secretary's European vacation will last two months and he will devote considerable time to an investigation of conditions on the continent.



Dr. J. I. France

DR. JOSEPH I. France, former United States senator from Maryland, evidently was in deadly earnest when recently he announced that he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1932. Already he has started on his summer campaign, and his many friends are helping to the extent of their powers. The doings began with a public meeting at Mount Ararat farms, the doctor's country estate in Cecil county, Maryland. Very soon, it is expected, he will make a tour through the grain states of the West.

Assisting France in getting his campaign under way are Jonathan Bourne, former senator from Oregon and head of the Republican publicity bureau during the Wilson administration, and Lyle Rader, who is described as "a prominent New York chemist and Bible speaker."

Doctor France says that on his trip in the West he will give his reasons for seeking the Presidential nomination and will discuss "the grave world crisis and its remedy through the application of the principle of righteousness to economic, social and international problems."



Mgr. Borgoncini-Duca

THOUGH it is understood in Rome that Pope Pius and Premier Mussolini have both decided to avoid any precipitate action in their controversy, they continue to hammer at each other with encyclicals and newspaper articles. The pope steadily maintains that the church is suffering persecution at the hands of the Fascist rulers of Italy, but for the present at least he will not consider the withdrawal of the papal nuncio to Rome, Mgr. Borgoncini-Duca. The nuncio, for his part, has been doing all he could to bring about a peaceful settlement of the quarrel.

The pope's latest encyclical dealt severely with the Fascist position on the education of youth, and was

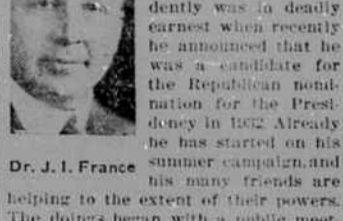
characterized by the Italian press as a return to the medieval conceptions about the respective authority of the church and state. Copies of the document were not only distributed in the churches of Rome, but also were sent out of the country by special couriers—which action drew Fascist ridicule.

BEFORE the convention of the Great Lakes-Hudson Waterways Association in Albany, N. Y., Senator Copeland and Representative Hamilton Fish of the Empire state and various others attacked the proposed St. Lawrence ship canal, and urged that congress begin as soon as possible the construction of all American waterways from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic seaboard by way of the Mohawk valley and the Hudson, as a means to relieve unemployment.

It was declared by the speakers that the St. Lawrence canal was considered only because the farmers of the Middle West wanted it for an outlet for their surplus grain, and Mr. Fish said the Russian wheat situation "now makes the building of a ship canal through Canada a fantastic myth."

MAYBE there will be another war in South America before long. Dispatches from Asuncion, Paraguay, said that Senor Guachalla, minister from Bolivia, sent a note to the foreign office declaring he had been ordered by his government to suspend diplomatic relations between the two nations. The Paraguayan government replied with the announcement that it had ordered its minister to Bolivia to return home. Don't ask what it's all about.

Peru has been having a little war of its own—government versus revolutionists. The other day the rebels were defeated at Huambito and the city of Cuzco, their headquarters, was taken. The revolutionists thereupon fled to the jungle, and probably little more will be heard of them.



Bishop Valencia

MEXICO'S quarrel with the Church of Rome is now centered in the state of Vera Cruz and the prospects of a peaceful settlement are growing more and more remote. In protest against the recently enacted law of the state limiting the number of priests, R. Rev. Rafael Guizar Valencia, bishop of Vera Cruz, has instructed all Catholics of the state to abstain from attending dances theaters and other festivities until the conflict between the church and government is ended. The bishop also has instructed his priests to keep their churches open, even if the state forbids services conducted by priests.

JOSEF STALIN has made public the new policy of Soviet Russia in dealing with the bourgeoisie and the kulaks of well-to-do farmers. These classes, hitherto suppressed, persecuted and exiled, are now to be conciliated to an extent if they will consent to co-operate with and labor for the Soviet regime. The rulers of Russia have discovered that the brains and skill of the old order are needed to meet the growing demands of agricultural and industrial development.

As part of the new order of things Stalin also presented a program entailing radical changes in the government's policy toward labor and industry to insure the success of the five-year plan.



Billy Burke

BILLY BURKE of Greenwich, Conn., professional golfer whose real name is Burkowski—he is a Pole—is the new open golf champion of the United States, wearing the crown which Bobby Jones laid aside. In the tournament on the Inverness course at Toledo, Burke and George von Elm of Detroit tied for first place with cards of 292. Next day they undertook to play off the tie at 36 holes, and again tied. So on Monday the second play-off was staged and Burke won by a margin of one stroke, finishing the longest tourney in golf history. Burke had a total of 589 strokes for the 144 holes played in the five days of their battle, and Von Elm had 590. This was slightly over an average of 4 for each hole.

NOTABLE among the deaths of the week was that of John Brisben Walker in Brooklyn. For many years he was often in the public eye as a soldier, business man, writer and editor and crusader for world peace.

The duke of Aosta, cousin of the king of Italy, also passed away, to the great sorrow of the Italian people. He won considerable fame in the World war.

Alaska's Panhandle



Geographic Harbor on Southern Coast of Alaska Peninsula.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

PLANS of Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh to fly to the Orient and their first reported intention to draw attention to the air route to Asia along Alaska's southeast "panhandle," the great Alaska peninsula and the Aleutian Islands, all under American jurisdiction; Kamchatka, a part of the Soviet Union; and the Kurile Islands, northern extension of Japan.

The route is an ideal one as far as landing places are concerned for planes fitted with pontoons, for while most of the ground is rough, there are innumerable coves and harbors among the islands and in their indented coastlines. The route was first shown to be practicable by the group of United States army flyers who flew around the world in 1924.

The first leg of the route, after the United States proper is left, leads over the straits along the west coast of British Columbia, then over the island-studded Inland Passage of southeast Alaska. Beyond the northern end of the Inland Passage comes the open water of the Gulf of Alaska until Kodiak Island is reached, south of the Alaska peninsula. It is from the tip of this peninsula that the 1,500-mile crescent of the Aleutian Island chain sweeps off toward Asia.

The Aleutians are volcanic, a fact made plain by the first and largest of the "stepping stones," Unimak. Although it has an area only a little larger than Rhode Island, so many craters occur on Unimak Island that there is often a great deal of confusion as to the location of the various eruptions reported. Mount Shishaldin, often reported active, is the most striking and beautiful of the eleven major craters of the island. It has one of the most nearly perfect cones in the world, seeming to float suspended in the air above its cloud-girt base.

a protected anchorage that could accommodate the largest battle fleet. The shortest sea route between Seattle and Yokohama (the great circle route) lies practically through Dutch Harbor, and it may some time become an important coaling and provisioning point. Because of the dangers from fogs and rocks, however, ships now swing well south of the Aleutians. Only a few natives and whites live at Dutch Harbor.

The Aleutians were born of volcanic action, and the activity is not yet spent. Bogoslof Island, some 70 miles from Dutch Harbor, is continually changing its form, rearing one smoking promontory after another above the waves and withdrawing others.

Volcanoes are to be found in the Aleutians in every stage of development: young and aged volcanoes, active and dormant, not only cones whose symmetry rivals that of Fujiyama, but also the jagged stumps of mountains that have been blown to bits by recent volcanic explosions. Volcanologists consider it one of the best known fields for the study of the problems of vulcanism.

Attu is the easternmost of the Aleutian Islands, 2,700 miles from the coast of Washington state. Because the International Date Line lies just beyond Attu, an airman, rising from the island to continue his flight, plunges directly into another day without the lapse of any time. Thus, if he starts from this westernmost American station Monday morning, he will be flying a few moments later in the morning of the day that to the Eastern hemisphere is Tuesday.

Traveling in Kamchatka.

The Aleutian route strikes the main land of Asia at the coast of Kamchatka, 450 miles east of Attu. This peninsula and the country north of it to the Bering Strait contains a large area of tundra or Arctic plains; soft spongy mosses during the few months of summer; frozen, snow-covered wastes in winter. In the higher land impenetrable underbrush springs up in summer. What little travel is possible at this season is done on the backs of sturdy ponies who must wade up the shallow streams or plet through the sticky swamps. In winter travel is easy. Teams of dogs and reindeer whisk laden sledges over the frozen surface of the streams and across the snow of the tundra at a rate, under favorable circumstances, of 75 miles or more a day.

In the summer the curse of the moist regions of the north strikes the Kamchatka country; swarms of mosquitoes and flies thicken the air and make life miserable for all living things. The nomadic flee with their herds of reindeer to the sea coast, where the breezes give some relief.

The Kamchatka peninsula proper is about 750 miles in length, and the distance from its roots to Bering Strait is an equal distance.

From the southern tip of Kamchatka the Kurile Islands sweep southward to the major islands of Japan. This distant string of fog-enshrouded, storm-lashed islands is the most westerly group of the north Pacific's bridge of islands. Like the Aleutians, the Kuriles are a string of volcanic peaks, dead and alive, whose smoking heads protrude above the cold and stormy waters of the North Pacific and stake out the Sea of Okhotsk. Thus, they form a haven for the Japanese fishermen who swarm over this island-girt sea in summer. Stretching between Kamchatka and the Japanese island of Yezo, they have long been known to the Russians who exploited their valuable furs. Not until recent years have the Japanese become interested in these next door neighbors.

The desolate islands are "a cradle of blizzards," hazards to the mariner and aviator alike. Storms and squalls spring up from nowhere, low-lying fogs hug the water's surface in spring and summer, hidden rocks lie in wait for the unwary navigator and swift currents race through narrow straits. However, the lost sailor may tell when he is close by the vast fields of brown seaweed or kelp which float on the water. Old salts who can "smell the beach" when near land are not alone in this useful ability when sailing these foggy waters.