

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Japanese Armies on Move Again While League Council Stumbles—Raskob Irritates the Drys—National Political Gossip.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

NEITHER Japan nor China was willing to accept the plan devised by the League of Nations council for an inquiry into the Manchurian situation, and the twelve members of that body made a further attempt to draw up a scheme that would please both sides, but without apparent success. The salient point of this latter plan was the sending of a "committee of study" to Manchuria, only instead of having an express mandate for investigating all of China as well as Manchuria, as the recent Japanese proposal provided, the committee would be instructed to investigate Manchuria, and to include China if they think it advisable. As demanded by the Japanese, the committee would have no power to investigate troop movements or to interfere otherwise with the war, nor to intervene in any direct negotiations between Tokyo and Nanking that might be opened.

Dr. Alfred Sze, in an uncompromising communication to the council, told how China looked on this scheme. He said:

"An inquiry without at the same time providing for immediate cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of Japanese forces becomes a mere device to condone and perpetuate for a more or less indefinite period the unjustifiable occupation of China's territory by an aggressor who has already virtually attained his unlawful object while these discussions have been going on. In the circumstances you will readily see it is quite impossible for me to consider the proposal in question final on the basis above mentioned has been adequately laid down."

When and if a committee of inquiry is named, its chairman may be Gen. Charles P. Summerall, former chief of staff of the United States army. He has been suggested for this place by the Japanese and probably would be acceptable to China.

Still another plan for solving the Manchurian problem was to be submitted to the council by the Nanking government, according to Dr. Wellington Koo, who has just been appointed Chinese foreign minister and assumed his new duties.

DOWN on the southern coast of Manchuria is a small strip in which is situated the city of Chinchow, and that it still in the hands of China—or was last week. But evidently the Japanese decided to take over this area also, for Doctor Sze gave the league council information that the troops of the Mikado were moving south from Mukden in armored cars with the intention of crushing the opposition in Chinchow. This action was explained by the Japanese on the ground that their interests there were menaced by bandits, but the Chinese assert the activities of bandits there and elsewhere in Manchuria are promoted by Japan to excuse their militant course.

Despite reports of dissension in the Japanese cabinet, it is apparent that the militarists, led by Gen. Jiro Minami, minister of war, are having their own way. They will not permit withdrawal of the troops from Manchuria, nor are they afraid of exasperating the Soviet Russian government to the point of forceful action although always assuring Moscow that Russian interests will not be endangered.

COMPLETION of the Lakes-to-the-Gulf waterway in 1932 instead of in May, 1933, with a view to assisting business, industry and employment, was asked of the federal government by the Mississippi Valley association at its annual convention in St. Louis. Senators Glenn and Lewis of Illinois and many others spoke in favor of speeding up the construction work, and argued that the objections raised by the army engineers to a quick finish—ice and possible floods—would not be considered valid if the waterway were a private enterprise instead of a government project. The associ-

ation voted in favor of a federal bond issue to carry out the work rapidly.

Senator Glenn recently urged upon President Hoover and Secretary of War Hurley the need of early completion of the work, and said he violated no confidence in declaring both of them were in favor of this course.

STIRRING up the animals is a favorite occupation of John J. Raskob, the dynamic chairman of the Democratic national committee. His latest achievement in that way is the sending out of a questionnaire to 88,580 contributors to the party campaign fund of 1928 to get their views on whether the Democratic national convention should declare for resubmission of the prohibition issue to the people. They are also asked what they think on other matters of party policy, but the liquor proposition is the main one.

Needless to say, Mr. Raskob himself is thoroughly wet, and as he says in his letter to contributors, he believes the time has come "for the Democratic party to face this issue squarely and to present to the people a definite plan under the policy of states' rights and local self-government."

The move was a follow-up to his presentation of the home-rule plan for liquor control last March to the national committee. He evoked then a bitter outburst, particularly from southern leaders, many of whom felt deliberate injection of the prohibition issue was a fine way to wreck the party's 1932 prospects.

This time the drys again responded with strong protests. Their board of strategy, of which Edwin C. Dinwiddie is executive secretary, issued a statement which said "wet millionaires" were bringing pressure to bear on both parties to make their platforms wet by threatening to withhold contributions in the 1932 contest.

Some New Yorkers saw in the Raskob questionnaire a deliberate effort to split the support of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who is still the leading contender for the Presidential nomination. Senators Robinson of Arkansas, Hull of Tennessee and Connally of Texas, interviewed in Washington, decried Raskob's efforts.

REPRESENTATIVE GARNER of Texas, prospective speaker of the next house, partook of a "harmony breakfast" with John F. Curry, chief-in of Tammany Hall, the other day and it is said persuaded him to abandon his plan to have a member of the Tammany delegation made floor leader.

The inter-party truce was completed when Representative John McEntulfe of Alabama withdrew from the race for the floor leadership. Immediately thereafter Representative Henry T. Rainey seventy-one-year-old veteran from Illinois, publicly announced his candidacy and word went down the line that he had the active support of Representative Garner. Mr. Rainey claimed he already had been pledged 133 of the 217 Democratic votes.

Democratic control of the house was clinched by the election of R. M. Kleberg, Democrat, in the Fourteenth Texas district to succeed the late Harry M. Wurzbach who was the state's only Republican congressman.

MEMBERS of the senate who are classed as progressive Republicans were reported to be organizing for opposition to the re-election of Senator George H. Moses of New Hampshire as president pro tempore of the senate. They are said to be actuated especially by Moses' attack on them a year ago, when he dubbed them "sons of the wild jackass." Nye of North Dakota, Norris of Nebraska and Couzens of Michigan were supposed to be leading the movement and it was believed they would support Senator Wesley L. Jones of Washington for the place held by Moses. The regular Republican leaders feared all this might result in allowing the Democrats to assume control of the senate as well as of the house.

PROGRESSIVE and independent members of the house expect to wield control of its actions, and at the call of Representative LaGuardia of New York those in that category,

both Republicans and Democrats, met Wednesday in Washington to make their plans and formulate their demands. The invitation to this conference, which was signed also by Paul J. Kvale of Minnesota, the lone Farmer-Laborite, said that even though the Democrats might elect the speaker, neither they nor the Republicans could hope for a working majority without the aid of the independents. One of the demands of the progressives is liberalization of the house rules so that "boss control" may be eliminated.

THERE is an unfilled vacancy among federal judgeships in the Chicago division of the eastern Illinois district, and George E. Q. Johnson, United States district attorney there, is strongly urged for the place by Senator Otis F. Glenn, Illinois. The appointment of Mr. Johnson would be political in some ways,



George E. Q. Johnson

but it also would be approved as a reward for the excellent work he has done in the line of prosecuting gangsters and grafting politicians for evasion of their income taxes. Senator Glenn denied that he had yet made any recommendation to the President, but other supporters of Mr. Johnson were insistent that he should be appointed now, though he has three more years to serve of his second term as district attorney and Mr. Hoover, it was reported, wants him to finish his term.

If Mr. Johnson is elevated to the bench, his successor is likely to be Dwight H. Green who, though only thirty-four years old, has been one of the district attorney's most efficient and valued assistants in the prosecution of tax dodgers, acting as solicitor for the revenue bureau.

IF THE Democrats in senate and house follow the leadership of Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas, their leader in the senate, they will oppose any increase in surtaxes and any great increase in any of the government levies. Robinson says such action by congress would "approach confiscation" and would be likely to prolong instead of relieve the depression. He proposes instead a bond issue.

Senator Robinson argues that taxes should be raised solely to obtain revenue and not for the purpose "of distributing wealth or reducing large fortunes." He is opposed to a general sales tax, but would consent to a sales levy on luxuries. He said in his statement:

"The most practical method to diminish unemployment is to revive industry. Increase in taxation is a poor method for overcoming depression. In other words, while increases may be unavoidable they cannot be expected to contribute to the forces calculated to restore confidence and courage in the sphere of investments and enterprises."

He added that while he recognized the necessity of balancing the budget, he did not look for a great reduction in public expenditures.

THOUGH he is now eighty-eight years old, Gen. A. W. Greely is still actively interested in the exploration of polar regions and he has just been appointed chairman of the national committee that sponsors a new American expedition which will start for the Arctic next June to spend two years on Ellesmere Island, the northernmost land on the globe. Capt. Flavel M. Williams will be commander of the party, and Dr. H. B. Maris will be its scientific director, and the gray-bearded leader of the ill-fated Greely expedition of 1831-1834 is helping them make their plans. They will have radios, airplanes and modern comforts in exploring the region where General Greely met with disaster and where eighteen of his party starved or froze to death.



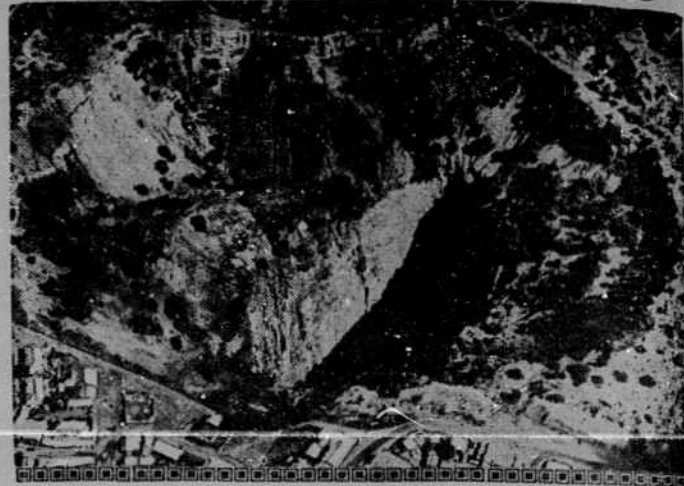
Gen. A. W. Greely

SPEDDING toward Chicago with hundreds of entries for the International Live Stock show, a long special train was wrecked near Lexington, Mo., by spreading rails. Seven men were killed and others injured. Many fine horses known in the show rings of the country were destroyed. The "million dollar train" was carrying the stock from the American Royal Live Stock show in Kansas City.

NOTEWORTHY among the deaths of the week were those of Dr. Sam Small of Atlanta, noted editor and evangelist; Louis Loucheur, former cabinet minister and once rated as the richest man in France; O. C. Simonds of Chicago, famous landscape architect and park designer, and Albert H. Harris, financial head of the New York Central lines.

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African Diamonds



Abandoned Mine of the Kimberley Group.

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

DISCOVERY of new diamond deposits in Tanganyika has made the colony the focal point of enthusiastic prospectors in search of the glittering gems.

The African diamond industry is only slightly more than a half century old. Today the continent produces nearly nine-tenths of the world's supply. It was in 1870 that the windy, dust-swept region of Griqualand, South Africa, suddenly changed from No Man's Land to Everyman's Land, when diamonds were discovered there. Later, it was annexed to Cape Colony within such meticulously drawn boundaries that inside one farmer's house the family dined in that colony and went to bed in the Orange Free State.

"Playing jackstones with diamonds!" Somehow that electrifying caption was overlooked by news reporters in 1866, when, at Hopetown, on the Orange river, the presence of diamonds in South Africa was signaled by a child, who was discovered playing with a casually picked-up gem weighing 21½ carats.

At once the South African diamond fever was on. Ships lost their crews, overseas shopkeepers their clerks, police forces their "bobbies," the underworld its crooks; and perhaps the church lost a curate, and certainly Natal lost a budding cotton planter—he had once felt drawn to the ministry—in the case of an invalidish young fellow named Cecil John Rhodes. All raked up the price to get them to Griqualand's "desert of drought and diamonds."

Future Kimberley was soon a scene of canvas tents, of wagons converted into huts, of prospectors sifting the diamondiferous earth, and of "kopje-walkers"—those who bought other men's finds on speculation—hurrying to and fro among the sorting tables. Also there appeared the resourceful "L. D. B." (illicit diamond buyer), who, co-operating with what might be described as the diamond-stealing industry, smuggled out stones in contravention to the law. Stowing gems in cigarettes, pipes and hollow shoe-heels by no means exhausted his ingenuity. The hungry-dog trick—that is, feeding a starved animal on meat containing diamonds and subsequently retrieving them by cutting him open—was much in vogue.

Controlling the Output.

Under desert conditions, food was often more precious than diamonds, and baths, if you could afford that luxury, were taken in imported soda water. Despite prophecies of a brief year's life for Kimberley, the first two decades showed a production of six tons of diamonds from the Griqualand country. Indeed, by 1880 the possibility of South African stones swamping the market was so apparent that Rhodes and his group formed the price-and-output-controlling De Beers company.

Modern Kimberley abuts on a three-mile-wide circle which contains, within barbed-wire barriers, mines, housing "compounds," process sheds, company stores, hospitals, public baths, and kitchens—in fact, everything necessary to the industry and its 5,000 Bantu miners.

These Bantu "boys" are voluntary recruits, who mine for six months annually, returning to their kraals with the wherewithal for meeting taxes, for buying wives with lobola (cattle dowry), or for less serious investments, such as concertinas and mouth organs. In "above ground" hours they are seen cooking their food, or purchasing at cost price at the stores, or depositing their wages with the company's savings department. Often these deposits represent such considerable annual aggregates as \$230,000 paid in by 12,000 miners.

Each week in the Kimberley mines some 70,000 tons of "blue ground" (hard, diamondiferous earth) are blasted out, crushed, fed into running

water, rotated in steel drums, jigged along in troughs, and washed across tablelike surfaces coated with petroleum jelly. The rotary process, by centrifugal force, separates the ground-up mass into different-sized units. The jiggling process washes away barren elements from the water-borne "concentrate," of gravel-like appearance; and, finally, the diminished residue flows across the petroleum surfaces, to which only the diamonds adhere.

Not at All Exciting.

Yet "diminished residue" is putting it but mildly, since these 70,000 tons of blue ground will produce only about 10½ pounds of diamonds—say, a ratio of 14,000,000 to 1.

We might address the cleanser, who, broad blade in hand, now and then scrapes off the diamondiferous petroleum and throws it into a vat of boiling water.

"Scraping off millions of dollars' worth of diamonds in this way, isn't it rather exciting?"

"Why, no," he will probably answer unemotionally—and everyone knows what familiarity breeds—it's about like handling mortar with a trowel."

Inside the sorting room, to which visitors are admitted after an eye has scrutinized them from behind a slide-back panel, men were poking diamonds through graduated holes in small screens to ascertain the stones' diameters. On one table alone lay 18,500 carats-weight of gems, worth approximately a million dollars. Feeling as dizzy as Ali Baba in the treasure cave, one asks tremulously of a sorter:

"Putting millions of dollars' worth of diamonds through screen holes, isn't it a bit thrilling?"

"Oh, no," he answers, suppressing a yawn—again that familiarity complex—as he popped a one-inch diamond through the screen, "it's about like shelling peas."

Kimberley town itself is as simple and homelike a place as you'd find in the suburban area of some American city. It has produced nearly \$1,300,000,000 worth of diamonds in half a century. It's difficult to see how the city could adequately have expressed its wealth production save by paying its main street with gems; but in truth it has been its fate to have created fortunes that too often flitted from South Africa to the attractions in London and Paris.

Yet there was an exception. At least one Kimberley digger, Cecil Rhodes, could amass a fortune, yet scorn to use it in the common way. Great wealth constitutes a trust, to be administered in the wider interests of humanity—such was his view. And that he did, according to his lights, within South Africa and for the British empire.

Many Used in Industry.

Not all diamonds are destined to shine forth from jewelry that adorns men and women. More than half the world's production of the stones, in quantity, is used in industry. Some form bearings for watches, chronometers, electric meters, and other accurate instruments.

Other industrial uses for diamonds are as drills for glass, porcelain, and similar hard substances; turning tools for lathe work; engraving points; and as cutting edges for rock drilling and sawing. For industrial purposes only the less nearly perfect and less valuable stones are used.

The United States is the world's greatest diamond consuming country. In recent years a wealth of the gems has been literally scooped up from the earth in the regions of alluvial diamond deposits. Until this change in mining methods came about, the greater part of the diamonds had been mined for decades by laborious digging to great depths in the "pipes" of extinct volcanoes. Then came the slow work of separating the stones from earth and rock.