



1—President Coolidge greeting his father on arrival at Plymouth, Vt., for a week's visit. 2—View of Aunt Bay, Spitzbergen, where were held celebrations of the formal annexation of the island by Norway in accordance with international treaty. 3—Plebes of fourth class men of West Point marching across the Hudson for a week of field work.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Settlement of Belgian Debt Shows Leniency on Part of the United States.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PROVIDED congress is satisfied—and there is no reason to believe it will not be—the funding of Belgium's debt to the United States has been arranged. The agreement was signed by the members of the two commissions last week at a dinner given by President Coolidge when Secretary Mellon and Senator Smoot conferred with him, and the Brussels government authorized its representatives to accept it.

Belgium is highly pleased with the arrangement, and should be. In the first place, a distinction is made between the obligations incurred during the war and the sums borrowed after the armistice for purposes of relief work and reconstruction. The principal is all to be paid in a period of 62 years, but on the war debt of \$171,780,000 Belgium is not required to pay any interest, either accrued or in the future. The interest rate on the post war debt is to be 3 1/2 per cent after the first ten years. During the first decade arbitrary amounts have been fixed on the interest payments, graduated on an easy scale.

On the war debt account the first payment of capital, which will be due June 15, 1926, will be only \$1,000,000, increasing gradually until it reaches \$2,990,000 in 1932, the same amount to be paid each succeeding year until 1957. Then a final payment of \$2,280,000 will be made.

For the first year on the post war debt the principal and interest payment will be \$2,840,000, increasing somewhat each year to the eleventh year, when it will be \$9,772,000. The annual payment each year thereafter for 51 years, or until 1957, will be approximately this amount—a little under 10,000,000 a year.

The Belgian debt has hitherto been regarded as totaling about \$480,000,000, including accrued interest at a rate of 4 1/2 per cent. The settlement, however, fixes the actual amount at \$417,780,000, as of June 15, 1925.

The American commission refused to accept Belgium's claim that the war debt should be shifted in any way to Germany, but explained the easy terms granted by saying that "while no legal obligation rests upon the United States in the matter, there does continue a weighty moral obligation as a result of assurances given which entirely differentiates this sum from all other debts due the United States from foreign countries." The allusion, of course, is to President Wilson's assurance that the German government would be substituted for Belgium as the debtor for the pre-armistice debts.

FRANCE naturally was immensely interested in the Belgian debt settlement and regarded it as a happy augury and as proof that America was ready to make generous concessions in the matter of the French obligations. Finance Minister Caillaux, declaring: "The future of European civilization depends on an immediate solution of the war debts," announced that the French mission headed by Senator Herenger would come to Washington in September and that he would follow it and hoped a funding agreement might be reached early in October. Meanwhile he went on Saturday to London for another conference with the English, expecting to bring about a rapid agreement regarding France's obligations to Great Britain.

Italy, too, was cheered by the Belgian settlement, hoping for similar and perhaps better terms when Ambassador de Martino returns to Washington and the parleys are resumed. The newspapers in Rome are presenting figures to show that Italy is receiving \$90 per capita on her reparations account and the national wealth is only \$586 per capita, while Belgium receives from Germany \$324 per capita

and the national wealth of Belgium is \$1,877 per capita. The conclusion is drawn that Italy should receive proportionately better terms.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE spent nearly a week at Plymouth, Vt., visiting his father and enjoying the only real rest he has had since his vacation began. On Thursday he reluctantly started back to Swampscott by motor, stopping overnight at Northampton, Mass., with Mrs. Elmira Goodhue, mother of Mrs. Coolidge. Friday afternoon the President received Senator Edge of New Jersey and State Senator Whitney, the Republican gubernatorial nominee.

BESIDES the matter of the Belgian debt agreement, the President had one important conference while at Plymouth: It was about the proposed reduction of federal taxes, and those who talked it over with Mr. Coolidge were Secretary Mellon, Senator Smoot, chairman of the finance committee, and Representative Tillson of Connecticut, Republican floor leader of the house. They assured him that before payments for this year are due on March 15 next, congress will have made substantial reductions in federal income taxes. No definite figure could be proposed yet, because the treasury surplus and amount of the government budget are yet unknown, but the belief was expressed that a cut of at least \$300,000,000 could be made.

Both Senator Smoot and Representative Tillson favor cutting the maximum surtax on incomes of \$12,000 and more from 40 per cent to 20 per cent, or to 15 per cent if conditions warrant. They also favor making the normal tax on incomes of \$4,000 or less 1 per cent instead of 2; 3 per cent instead of 4 for incomes between \$4,000 and \$8,000, and 5 instead of 6 per cent on incomes over \$8,000.

Mr. Mellon feels that the financial condition of the government will permit of a reduction of the surtaxes to 25 per cent, and the cutting down of the normal taxes proportionately, with the lowest normal reduction from 2 to 1 per cent. He favors the federal government abandoning the inheritance taxes, but remarked that he could not attempt to say how far the general tax reduction program could go.

WITH two of its three navy planes out of commission and unusually severe weather prevailing, the MacMillan expedition has abandoned for this year any exploration of the polar sea by air. Instead the party will devote its efforts to the exploring of Norse ruins in Greenland and Labrador and to a survey of Baffin Island. In sending word of his change of plans to Washington by radio, Commander MacMillan gave high praise to the navy flyers with him for their efforts to overcome insurmountable obstacles. In flying over Ellesmere Island these aviators traversed a vast stretch of uncharted country and high mountain ranges never before seen by man.

PRESUMABLY with the aid and support of the Turks and the Egyptian nationalities, the Senussi tribesmen in North Africa have risen against the Italian rule in Tripoli and Cyrenaica. Led by Sheik Ahmed, they waylaid and massacred a column of Italian troops south of Benghazi and occupied the main caravan route between Tripoli and Egypt. The Senussi, a great body of austere religious Mohammedans, are good fighters and are well armed.

Marshal Pétain has been sent to Morocco as supreme commander of the French forces and is directing the vigorous offensive which is driving the troops of Abd-el-Krim back northward to the Atlas mountains. In the Ouzan region, where the French and Spanish armies are co-operating, wholesale submission of rebels is announced. Spain and France have called off all peace negotiations with the Rif chieftain as he failed to send any representative to Meilla.

MAX MASON, professor of mathematical physics in the University of Wisconsin, has been elected president of the University of Chicago to succeed the late Dr. Ernest De Witt Burton. The board of trustees has followed the recent example of other similar boards in selecting a comparatively young man, for Doctor Mason is

only forty-eight years of age. He has accepted the appointment with enthusiasm for he has a vision of Chicago as the cultural and intellectual center of the world. Doctor Mason was born in Madison, Wis., and graduated from the state university, afterward getting his Ph. D. degree from the University of Göttingen, Germany. He taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and in Yale before returning in 1908 to the University of Wisconsin as professor of mathematical physics. During the war he was called to Washington to consider the matter of protection from submarines, and he invented the hydrophone by which the undersea vessels were detected and located. According to his associates, he has executive ability of a high order in addition to his academic training.

VICTOR F. LAWSON, editor and publisher of the Chicago Daily News and for many years one of the leading newspaper men of America, died on Wednesday of heart disease after an illness of three days. He was born in Chicago 75 years ago, the son of Norwegian immigrants. After working with his father on a Scandinavian paper there, he bought an interest in the newly established Daily News. Later he acquired Melville E. Stone's share and built the News up into one of the most valuable newspaper properties in the country. He was one of the founders of the Associated Press and always was prominent in its management.

ONE of the most distressing disasters on the Atlantic coast in recent years occurred in Narragansett bay off Newport Tuesday night when a boiler on the excursion steamer Mackinac exploded and more than two score men, women and children were scalded to death by steam. Many others were so badly injured that it was probable the death list would be extended. The boat was on its way from Newport to Pawtucket when the blast came. It was run aground and distress signals quickly brought many navy vessels and other boats to the rescue, but most of the damage already had been done. Federal and state inquiries into the disaster were begun at once. It was said the exploded boiler was an old one deteriorated by wear and thinned down in certain places.

ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS and his expedition, after having made many valuable and interesting discoveries in Mongolia, have now been ordered to leave that country by the government at Urga. The Mongolian officials allege that Mr. Chapman has violated the terms of his agreement with Mongolian scientific organizations; that besides carrying on his investigations in paleontology, geology and zoology, he has engaged in topographical observation work and has employed a number of persons whom they consider suspicious in a military sense. Mr. Andrews is also accused of carrying on political propaganda against the Bolsheviks.

THE fourteen-thousand Zionist congress opened in Vienna last week and the anti-Semites of the city promptly started a series of riotous demonstrations that kept the police busy for several days. Several members of the mobs were killed and scores were wounded. The rioters, who call themselves Fascists, finally were persuaded by the government to let the Jews meet in peace. The sessions of the congress were not at all harmonious, the delegates being split up into political groups.

IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, another world congress opened, the Universal Christian conference, the fundamental idea of which, according to its originators, is the formation of a united front among the Christian churches to face the great world problems that have arisen since the war. Questions of doctrine and faith are not being considered. The American delegates sought to have the conference go on record in favor of total abstinence from alcoholic liquors, but the Europeans told them plainly that this would not be permitted. King Gustave and Queen Victoria gave a state luncheon for the delegates and choice wines were served, but the Americans drank only water.

ANNUAL FIRE LOSS IN NORTH CAROLINA

STATE LEADS NATION IN ACTIVITIES FOR FIRE PREVENTION.

Raleigh.

The annual fire loss in North Carolina is now running close to \$6,500,000, or approximately \$2.45 per capita, as against an annual loss in the United States of \$550,000,000, or about \$5.25 per capita.

The figures were obtained here from Stacey W. Wade, State Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal.

Commissioner Wade declared that North Carolina now leads all the States of the Union in fire prevention work. The State has a larger number of fully equipped and modern fire departments per capita than any other Commonwealth and also surpasses all others in the number of fireproof school buildings per capita. North Carolina is now the only State in the Union that requires all state buildings to be built of fireproof construction he said.

Commissioner Wade expressed special pride in the residential fire loss in this State. It was less than seven per cent of the total loss in 1924. This remarkable showing in the burning of residences he considers a direct result of the teaching of fire prevention and safety in public schools. He called attention to the fact that the past Legislature passed a law requiring fire drills in all public schools twice each month and made it mandatory on his department to enforce the statute.

"The annual fire loss is still appalling in both States and Nation," he said, "and he greatest need of the time is closer co-operation of the public with State fire marshals in the prevention of conflagrations."

That the present record is inexcusable may be readily understood, he thinks, when it is remembered that the annual fire loss in England and France in 1924 ran only from 16 to 30 cents per capita.

Commissioner Wade is president this year of the Fire Marshal's Association of America, which will hold its annual convention in San Antonio, Texas, beginning September 18. The big problem ahead of the convention is the appalling loss of property by preventable fires in the last year.

Mr. Wade says his department is getting ready for an intensive observance of Fire Prevention Week in North Carolina again this year. The record shows that heretofore this State has led all others in successfully staging Prevention Week and he expects to maintain the record in 1925. The date is October 5 to 10.

Death Records Show Decrease.

The Grim Reaper is losing ground in North Carolina.

Births in North Carolina during the first six months of 1925 showed an increase over the number of births during the same period of 1924 while deaths during 1925 showed a decrease from the total for the six months period in 1924, according to figures made public by the State Board of Health.

During the first six months of 1924 there were 42,030 births in the State while during the same period in 1925 births totaled 42,197. The death total of 17,746 in the first half of 1924 is cut considerably in the total for the first half of this year which is 16,828.

During the present year, the number of deaths by burns far exceeds the number of deaths by typhoid fever. Deaths from automobile accidents exceeds the number of deaths from diphtheria, smallpox, scarlet fever and measles.

Typhoid fever shows a decided decrease this year in deaths from last year. During 1924 there was an average of 22.5 deaths from typhoid each month while this year the monthly average is only 13.85.

Bumper Crop Reported.

William A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, who has just returned from a trip through Eastern North Carolina, reports a "wonderful corn crop" in that section of the State.

"There will be a great surplus on the market in Eastern North Carolina," declared the commissioner, "while west of Raleigh, in certain sections, the farmers have suffered keenly from the effects of the drought. Consequently they will, in many instances, be forced to buy corn to enable them to make the 1926 crop.

"Here is where the Division of Markets can render a great service in finding a market for the corn for sale, also in assisting those in the drought districts."

Mr. Graham also reported a splendid crop of soy beans.

State Engineers to Mexico.

North Carolina State Highway engineers will have charge of the construction of the new Mexican federal highway system as the result of the adoption by the Mexican Government of a report made a few weeks ago on the new system by Charles M. Upham, state engineer. O. N. Conner, State construction engineer of the State Highway Commission, will leave for Mexico City to accept the position of acting Federal Highway Engineer of Mexico.

Will Investigate Sanatorium.

Ample funds are available to take care of all patients at the State Sanatorium or who may be admitted under the regular policy, declared Governor McLean in a statement issued upon his return to the city.

The Governor declared that he thought there must be some mistake about the Sanatorium authorities giving out "any such statement." He stated that he would make a personal investigation at the earliest possible moment to ascertain the "true facts." He asked the newspapers to give his statement the same prominence as that given recent Associated Press story.

Pending his investigation, the Governor asks the board of directors of the institution not to discharge any patients.

The Governor's statement follows in full.

"On Friday, as I was returning home, I saw, for the first time, a newspaper containing the recent Associated Press statement in regard to the State Sanatorium for Tuberculars. I was very much surprised to learn of the charge that very sick patients would be discharged on account of lack of funds to keep them at the Sanatorium and I believe there must be some mistake about the matter because the Sanatorium authorities know, as I know, that ample funds are available to take care of all patients at the institution, as well as others that may be admitted under the regular policy which has been in force for some time.

"The last Legislature appropriated \$165,000 for maintenance for Sanatorium, which, with the recent tentative five per cent reduction, leaves a fund of \$156,750. This amount, even if the five per cent reduction stands, is a little larger than the annual appropriation available for the past two years. Very little of the money appropriated by the 1925 General Assembly for maintenance has been expended since the beginning of the fiscal year on July first.

"I intend making an investigation personally at the earliest possible moment to ascertain the true facts, and to also find out why the Associated Press statement, as it appeared in the newspapers, was made. I will then give the public a full statement. In the meantime, I intend to request that the Board of Directors refrain from dismissing any one of the sixteen patients in question until the facts in regard to each case, as well as the general policy involved, can be ascertained.

"I trust the newspapers of the State will give the same position of publicity to this statement which they gave to the Associated Press statement."

Insurance Tax Revenue Grows.

Revenue paid into the State Treasury by the State Insurance Department since its organization in 1899 totals \$10,481,263.96, according to the annual report of Insurance Commissioner Stacey W. Wade, which was made public. During the past fiscal year the total revenue was \$1,083,094.77.

Receipts for the present fiscal year are expected to total around \$1,200,000, according to Mr. Wade. The revenue of the department has increased during every year since the organization of the department except in 1900-01 and 1921-22, the report shows. The collections have increased from \$91,973.49 in 1899-1900 to \$10,481,263.96.

Increase in Fire Loss Last Month.

According to official tabulations of fire loss in North Carolina for July Insurance Commissioner Stacey W. Wade stated that a large increase was noticeable this year over the number and damage of fires during July of last year. In July, 1925, loss by fire amounted to \$620,693, in July, 1924, \$191,036.

Principal among causes of fire, were sparks on shingle roofs, 33 unknown, 46, overhot tobacco stoves, 47; short circuit, 13; adjoining building 10; lightning 9.

The following towns, reporting no fire, or no damage from fire exceeding \$4.00 are placed on the department's honor roll for July:

Washington, Smithfield, Mt. Airy, Marion, Wilson, Tarboro, Thomasville, Albemarle, New Bern, Hickory, Ayden, Pinehurst, Kernersville, Elm City, Aberdeen, Granite Falls, Warsaw, Middlesex, Zebulon, Pintos, Mt. Olive, Weaverville, and Bryson City.

State Automobiles Are Sold.

Three Packards, a Nash, a Buick, a Dodge and a Packard, formerly owned by the State Revenue Department in administering the automobile license laws were sold at auction in front of the Wake court house for the handsome sum of \$3,725. R. E. Prince was the auctioneer.

A large throng attended the auction sale and the bidding was cautious but spirited. A Packard roadster, the last car sold, brought the highest price, \$1,025.

Jones Appointed Major.

Edward F. Jones, of Asheville, captain of the cavalry, was advanced to the rank of major and assigned to command the Second Squadron of the 109th Cavalry of the North Carolina National Guard, with the station at Asheville, according to a statement from Adjutant General J. Vann B. Metts.

The order also states that he will appear before a board of officers for examination for promotion as required by the War Department regulations.

The KITCHEN CABINET

(c. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.) A busy, bonny, kindly place. Is this rough world of ours, For those who love and work apace And fill their hands with flowers.

THINGS FOR THE TABLE

A delicious pie which may be made with other fruit but is especially good with currants is as follows: Bake the pastry shell and fill with the following mixture—crush one cupful of currants, add one cupful of sugar, the yolks of two eggs slightly beaten and mixed with half a cupful of cold water and two tablespoonfuls of flour; cook until smooth, add a tablespoonful of butter and cool slightly before pouring into the baked shell. Cover with a meringue using the two egg whites and three tablespoonfuls of sugar. Brown in a moderate oven and chill before serving.

Canfield String Beans.—Slice the beans and put to cook using a table spoonful of lutter for each pint of sliced beans, cook until well heated through, browning and stirring carefully while cooking. Add a little water and simmer for an hour, then add milk and a tablespoonful of flour to thicken and cook until the flour is well blended. Serve, seasoning with salt and pepper.

Tomatoes Stuffed With Cucumbers.—Prepare the tomatoes by scooping out the centers; save the tomato for other sauces or dishes. Dice fine a cucumber or two and mix with a finely minced onion, add a good salad dressing and fill the tomato cups. Serve on lettuce. A potato salad is not half as appetizing if it lacks the flavor and crispness of a diced cucumber.

Celery and Bacon Dish.—Cook one cupful of celery cut into dice and stir it into a cupful of rich white sauce, made by cooking together two tablespoonfuls each of butter and flour and adding a cupful of rich milk. Season with salt and cayenne and pour the celery and sauce over buttered toast. On each slice place a slice of cooked bacon. Serve at once.

Stuffed Eggs.—For a supper dish on a hot night or for a luncheon dish, eggs are especially good. Cook in the shell and when cold remove the shells. Cut into halves, remove the yolks, mash and season them with salt, cayenne, butter or cream, refill the halves and arrange on a deep platter. Set in the oven to heat while a white sauce is prepared, using one cupful of rich milk, two tablespoonfuls each of butter and flour cooked together before the milk is added. Pour while hot over the eggs, sprinkle with finely minced green pepper or chives and serve hot.

Food We Like.

As chicken is the universal company dish, the following will be one which will serve several:

Chicken a la King.—Melt two tablespoonfuls of butter and in it cook one-fourth of a pound of mushrooms, peeled and cut into small pieces, one-half of a green pepper cut into shreds; stir and cook until the moisture is somewhat evaporated. In another saucepan melt two tablespoonfuls of butter and cook in it three tablespoonfuls of flour, one-half teaspoonful of salt and one-fourth of a teaspoonful of paprika; add one cupful of thin cream and one cupful of hot chicken broth and stir until boiling; cream two tablespoonfuls of butter, beat two egg yolks, one at a time into the sauce, stir until the eggs are cooked, add the mushrooms, pepper, the hot breast of a chicken cut into inch square pieces, a teaspoonful of lemon juice, and a few drops of onion juice. Add the butter stirred in at the last. Serve in timbale cases or on well browned toast.

Swiss Eggs.—Break an egg for each serving into a small brown baking dish, sprinkle with salt and pepper, a dash of red pepper, a thin layer of chopped ham and over all some buttered crumbs. Set into the oven in a pan of hot water and bake until the eggs are set.

Baked Corn With Clams.—Mix one can of minced clams with one cupful of canned corn, one cupful of milk, one egg and one teaspoonful of salt, a grating of onion, a dash of cayenne. Place in a baking dish and dot with two tablespoonfuls of butter. Bake one-half hour. Fresh corn may be used.

Timbale Cases.—Beat two eggs slightly, add one cupful of milk alternately with one cupful of flour to which one-fourth teaspoonful of salt has been added. Beat until the mixture is smooth throughout. Have ready a kettle of hot fat, set the timbale iron into the fat and when hot dip the iron into a half cupful of the batter, stop allowing it to cover over the top of the iron. Return to the hot fat and cook for half a minute. Tilt the iron to remove from the fat and drain the cases on paper. Keep them in a dripping pan in a hot oven until ready to serve.

Jellies, marmalades and preserves, all make good filling for sweet sandwiches. Chopped raisins and apple or apple and figs are good combinations.

Neelie Maxwell

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