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DOINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Signing of Flood Control Bill Stimulates the Mississippi Valley.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PEOPLE of the lower Mississippi valley threw up their hats and cheered when the news was flashed over the country that President Coolidge had signed the flood control bill and made it part of the law of the land. Throughout the region especially affected there were happy celebrations, and New Orleans particularly rejoiced, calling the day the greatest since the end of the Civil war. That city, relieved of fear of annual floods, will go ahead with plans to take her place among the big cities of the country and her industrial and real estate men already are out after new business. In lesser degree the whole valley up to the mouth of the Missouri river is similarly stimulated, and the railroads running through the area are expecting steadily increasing business.

Under the provisions of the act a board of three is to make recommendations to the President in connection with the adjustment of engineering differences between the Jadwin plan and the Mississippi river commission plan for flood control. Major General Jadwin, chief army engineer, and the president of the river commission are two members of this board, and Mr. Coolidge selected Carleton W. Sturtevant of New York as the third member. Mr. Sturtevant is sixty-four years of age and was recommended by members of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Missouri in 1884. In his early years, Mr. Sturtevant had charge of survey work as a government engineer on the Mississippi as a private engineer. He was employed on the Panama canal and had charge of engineering work in South America and in Mexico.

The bill centers authority in the hands of the President and the army engineers. Actual construction work will be handled by the present Mississippi river commission under the direction of the secretary of war and the supervision of the chief of engineers. An appropriation of about \$25,000,000 will be required for the first year. The act authorizes a total expenditure of \$325,000,000, but the President and General Jadwin believe the actual outlay during the next ten or twelve years will be at least \$500,000,000. Mr. Coolidge's fears that a land scandal would arise were allayed by a provision that the government shall acquire flowage rights only on such land as is not now subject to overflow.

TWO more big pieces of legislation were put up to the President when the senate adopted the conference reports on the farm relief and merchant marine bills. That the former, known as the McNary-Haugen measure, was certain to be vetoed by Mr. Coolidge was generally admitted, and its supporters were not sure they could muster enough votes to pass it over the veto. The report on the merchant marine bill was accepted only after a filibuster conducted by radical senators who attacked it as a ship subsidy measure in disguise, the postal subvention and construction loan features especially being denounced. Nine Republicans and eleven Democrats voted in the negative. Though a majority of the house rules committee are against the Boulder Dam bill, the extremely active lobby boosting that measure forced the committee to put it up to the house and a special rule was granted permitting its consideration with eight hours of debate. This may prevent the planned adjournment of congress at the end of this week, but it is unlikely that the filibuster against the bill, announced by Senator Ashurst, can be broken down.

NOTHING happened last week to change the prediction of the Hoover and Smith boosters that their respective candidates would have virtual walkovers in the Republican and Democratic national conventions.

Indeed, these predictions were strengthened, for Hoover gained 21 and perhaps 29 delegates in New Jersey and 14 in Alabama, and Smith garnered 44, from New Jersey, Vermont and Montana.

South Carolina Democrats in convention elected 18 delegates to Houston unopposed but directed to vote for a dry nominee and a dry platform. The anti-Smith faction lost in the attempt to instruct the delegates to vote against Smith "or other candidates of similar views."

The New York governor, according to his supporters, already is assured of 608 1/2 votes on the first ballot at Houston, or within 30 of the necessary two-thirds. His opponents dispute 79 1/2 of these votes, but there are few bold enough to dispute the claim that Smith is certain of nomination and that the convention will be only a Democratic love feast. Reports reached the senate committee on campaign expenditures that the governor's campaign was being financed by contractors who had held fast contracts from the New York state or city governments; but these were denied by W. F. Kenny, one of the contractors in question who has contributed \$70,000 to the Smith fund. He said he had done, in eleven years, not more than \$243,000 of business with the city and he added he was ready to add to his contribution to the limit of his ability to pay. Other substantial contributors made similar pledges.

Hoover's certainty of nomination is more open to discussion and is especially disputed by Lowden and his followers. The Hooverites claim 382 instructed and favorable votes and a probable total of 467 on first ballot, and give 228 to Lowden. But the Lowden figures are: Hoover 329 1/2; Lowden, 238 1/2; uncertain, 317.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, addressing the Pennsylvania delegation, created a sensation by giving Hoover as his choice for the nomination provided President Coolidge could not be persuaded to run again. "Hoover seems to come closest to the standards we have set for this high office," he said, but at the same time he urged the delegates to remain uncommitted to any candidate until they reached Kansas City and could determine in caucus what course was best for the party and the country. To reporters Mr. Mellon said afterwards: "It is not certain that Mr. Coolidge will not consent to the use of his name. The President may be a candidate." In which opinion he agrees with Charles D. Hilles of New York and other Easterners. It was said in Philadelphia that Mr. Mellon's declaration concerning Hoover was prompted by the knowledge that William Vare, local Republican boss, was ready to come out in favor of the secretary of commerce. "And this Vare did shortly after the Mellon statement. Lowden and Dawes partisans still insist that some of the 79 Pennsylvania delegates will be against Hoover."

CHIANG KAI-SHEK, leader of the Chinese Nationalists, rejected Marshal Chang's proposed truce in the civil war for the purpose of uniting against Japanese aggression, and both the Southerners and their allies, the forces of General Feng, resumed their movement on Peking. Chang prepared for the withdrawal of his troops and himself to Manchuria but Feng intercepted him at Mchchang where there was heavy fighting. Early capture of both Peking and Tientsin was foreseen, and both American and British forces in that region were made ready to protect their nationals. The Japanese, in full possession of Tientsin and the zone along the railway, decided to send troops to Manchuria if necessary to prevent disturbances there. The American force in north China totals 4,400, most of whom are at Tientsin.

PREMIER BRATIANO of Rumania defies his enemies, and has told parliament that his cabinet has no intention of resigning or heeding order of the demands of the peasants. Juliu Maniu, leader of the peasants, says they will now boycott the government completely and if that doesn't have effect they will resort to active resistance in nonpayment of taxes.

Carol, former crown prince of Rumania, driven out of England, took refuge in Belgium, where he was told he might remain so long as he behaved himself. Friends have leased for Carol and his companion, Margda

Lupescu, the magnificent Chateau d'Ardennes, near Dinant.

DR. GUSTAV STRESEMANN, foreign minister of Germany, lay almost at the point of death most of last week, but at latest reports his condition showed a little improvement. His illness created great anxiety in Germany and his political enemies, the Nationalists, took advantage of it to push their candidates in the general election set for Sunday.

SECRETARY OF STATE KELLOGG'S anti-war treaty plan was warmly endorsed by the British house of lords when it unanimously adopted Lord Reading's resolution calling on the government for "prompt, favorable consideration of these proposals." Premier Bruce of Australia has given the proposals his hearty approval, and Japan's reply is expected to be an acceptance of the principles enunciated. It is reported in Paris that Mr. Kellogg will be given this year's Nobel peace prize by the Norwegian parliament for his work in forwarding world peace. The award will not be made until November.

REDS from sixteen countries, including the United States, attended a Communist convention at Cassel, Germany, held under the auspices of the Third International and presided over by a nephew of Rykoff, assistant Russian commissar of foreign affairs. The discussion was mainly concerning means of extending Communist activity in the armies and navies of "capitalistic" nations and was extraordinarily frank. Progress in this work in the navies of England, France and America was reported, but Moscow delegates were told the prospects of revolutions in Europe were discouraging, especially since the failure in Vienna last year.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by the Fairchild Aerial Camera corporation that it has built for the army air corps an aerial camera with a range of eight miles, designed to photograph areas as large as four square miles. Picture taking at heights of 30,000 feet or more will be possible by devices which include an electrical heating system to prevent the shutter from freezing at temperatures as low as 60 degrees below zero. The machine has complete automatic control and operation, including a device to record the time the picture was taken, the altitude, the time of each exposure and other useful data.

FASCISM'S new electoral law was passed by the Italian senate. It reforms the chamber of deputies and abolishes democratic popular suffrage. The new chamber will be made up from a single list of 400 Mussolini-picked men, whom the people will approve or reject in a special "yes" or "no" plebiscite. No opposition list is to be presented.

UNCLE SAM is going into the business of manufacturing and disposing of fixed nitrites and electric power, if the Morin resolution adopted by the house is accepted by the senate in lieu of a similar resolution by Norris already adopted by the upper house and becomes law. The measure, relating to Muscle Shoals, may be vetoed by the President. In addition to setting up a \$10,000,000 corporation for the operation of the obsolete nitrate plants, and the disposal of sufficient funds to complete dam No. 2. Estimates on the authorized improvements run as high as \$40,000,000. This will be in addition to the \$140,000,000 which the government has already spent on the Muscle Shoals project.

GUILTY on two charges of imprudent and unministerial conduct and suspended permanently from exercising the functions of a bishop was the verdict of the Methodist Episcopal ecclesiastical court in the case of Bishop Anton Bast of Copenhagen, tried during the general conference in Kansas City. The court continued the Danish bishop in his membership and ministry and recommended provision for his support until the next meeting of his conference. The charges against Bishop Bast involved misuse of charity funds.

Reclaimed Land Made to Yield Big Crops

Land embraced in federal reclamation projects, considered practically valueless 22 years ago, produced crops last year with a gross value of \$135,307,210, the highest amount realized from this acreage since the war peak of 1919.

Reports and surveys by the Department of the Interior show that the value of crops grown during the last ten years on land irrigated from

works constructed by the bureau of reclamation amounts to more than \$1,000,000,000.

In 1908, when the money returns upon irrigated land first began coming in, the total crop value was \$244,900. Last year cotton alone grossed on the projects was valued at \$16,705,727. Alfalfa led all crops on the projects last year from the standpoint of acreage, being grown on 438,675 acres, or 31 per cent of the total cropped area of 1,421,520 acres. This crop was followed by wheat, 126,571 acres repre-

sented 13.3 per cent of the total acreage, and cotton, 178,875 acres which accounted for 12.5 per cent. No other crop occupied as much as 5 per cent of the cropped acreage.

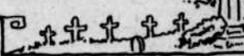
The bumper year on the reclamation projects was 1919. Last year's figures crowd the returns registered at that time very closely. The crop value in 1919 was \$152,978,400. This was followed by a decline during the deflation period to \$83,601,600 in 1922, after which values rose steadily to \$151,364,730 in 1923.

FLANDERS MEMORIAL



The American Memorial to the soldiers who fell in Flanders. This will be erected in the Flanders American cemetery, near Wareghem, Belgium, as part of the work of the American commission.

True Spirit of Memorial Day



Memorial day, which was originally dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of the Union army in the Civil war, without whose services and sacrifice we should, as far as one can see, have had no Union, has broadened out. In truth it is not a war, but a peace day, and ought to be so regarded. For it testifies to the spiritual, as well as the material gains won for us by the brave men who had laid down their lives for the nation. While for many years the day has been observed rather as a holiday than a holy day—the present customs being nothing new except perhaps as they have been exaggerated—there have always been large numbers of our people, as there are today, who keep the day in thought at least, as there are still those who fittingly observe it.

It is not likely that the people will ever forget what they owe to the brave men who fought their wars. The important thing is that they should capture something of the spirit that animated them, and show the same devotion to the country, the same regard for its honor and welfare. We need an army of peace, need it sorely, composed of men and women who will count nothing dear if only they may do something to make righteousness prevail in our national life—righteousness and true freedom.

The suggestion has been made that Memorial day be observed on the last Sunday in May. Thus it would be possible to emphasize the religious significance of the day. We only suggest that, if this is done, the day following be retained as a holiday. It has been for so long observed as such that it would be a pity to deprive the people of it. But whatever is or is not done in this way, our people should endeavor to draw some inspiration from the sacrifices that others have made, and vow that a country which has cost so much in blood shall be kept clean and true.—Indianapolis News.

Visiting Graves of Brave Men They Led

The American lads lying beneath the crosses in France received their measure of commemoration in the observance of Memorial day last year. General Pershing, their commander, Marshal Foch, Ambassador Herrick, high officials of the French government and representatives of the American, French and British veterans' societies joined in honoring the hero dead.

A special service was held in the American cathedral in Paris and similar ceremonies in the American churches in other cities and towns.



The French joined with the Americans in decking with flowers all the American war cemeteries.

Photograph shows Marshal Foch and General Pershing inspecting graves of American heroes in the cemetery at Buresmes.

Love's Tribute

To you men who spent weary months in barren, gloomy training camps in unrelenting drudgery.

To you who went over seas and under murderous fire and choking torturing gas, never faltered or failed.

To you lads who defied submarines and a nameless grave in the ocean and landed our army in France.

To those who are still suffering from wounds and gas, shell shock and disease.

To those who died.

Our prayers, our love and our tears.

Memorials Call Living to Duty

This is the season when God's acre, to use a name favored by the Pilgrim Fathers, is at its loveliest. Nature is kind to even the meaneast and most neglected burying place, carpeting the sunken grave with the softest green and glorifying the crumbling headstone with clinging vine and fragrant blossom. This is the season when the well-kept cemeteries are bowers of beauty, and the Gracelands, the Greenwoods, the Woodmeres, of the great cities, are visited by musing multitudes who do not forget to remember.

All over this land of ours are patriots' graves. The heroes of five wars rest in the soil of the country for which they died. Linked together inseparably is the youngest who died in the World war with the oldest who gave his all in the War of the Revolution. Roses and lilies; fuchsias and lilacs; flags and insigals; songs of thrush and cardinal; bugles sounding taps; this wavering line of the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic; strong, sturdy and youthful veterans of the last great conflict—what memories Memorial day brings, how costly is a nation's achievements in brain and brawn and blood!

It is a good and wise thing to muse amid the monuments and memorials where sleep those who loved the nation well enough to defend its principles and die for the preservation of its integrity. A journey to Mount Vernon just to stand five minutes before the tomb of Washington is worth all that it costs in time, money, even to those who live clear across the country. A pilgrimage to Springfield to dream by the hillside where the dust of Lincoln rests amidst the prairies that he loved and in the old town where his children used to play, is an education for the heart. What lessons at the patriot's grave for those of us who live—lessons of loyalty, sacrifice, and high service!

Years Have Thinned Ranks of Grand Army

The ranks of the G. A. R. marchers on Memorial day are growing pitifully thin. But the old uniform makes the grizzled wearer throw back his shoul-



Last of the Post.

ders; rheumatism is temporarily forgotten, palsy ignored; there is a martial step; the throbs of the drum, the nerve-lightening, muscle-tautening notes of the fute and fife; the thinning ranks march on to the final resting place of the comrades. Another Memorial day is here and we stop to honor the men who made the new United States; who took the broken pieces of an empire and put them together again.

The Aftermath

We traveled in the print of olden wars.

Yet all the land was green.

And here we found, and found.

Where fire and war had been.

They pass and smile, the children of the sword—

No more the sword they wield;

And, O, how deep the scars

Along the battlefield!

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

STUDY of VOLCANOES



"Cauliflower Cloud" During Eruption of Sakurajima, Japan.

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

VOLCANIC eruptions and earthquakes, which for ages man believed to be the work of malignant demons or wrathful gods, are gradually yielding the secrets of their causes and processes to scientific investigators. It is in an effort to extend still further science's ability to understand these forces of nature, and even to forecast their appearances, that the National Geographic society is sending an expedition this spring and summer to study intensively the conditions in one of the world's greatest volcanic regions, the smoking vents of the Alaskan peninsula and the Aleutian islands.

The studies will be conducted by Dr. Thomas A. Jaggar, who has lived for many years in an observatory on the brink of the crater of Kilauea, studying that mighty volcano's moods as shown in the waxing and waning of its pits of molten lava. How it has already been possible with present knowledge to prophesy a volcanic eruption and so to save thousands of lives, is seen in the circumstances surrounding the eruption of Sakurajima, Japan, in 1914.

This greatest eruption in the annals of the island empire resulted in the loss of only 35 lives and some millions of dollars in property. Scientific investigation is, in large measure, to be credited with the relatively few casualties, for it was through the prediction of the imminence of the Sakurajima outbreak that the inhabitants of a populous district were enabled to flee from the wrath about to come.

It was through a study of premonitory earthquakes in their relation to volcanic outbreaks that the Sakurajima eruption was definitely predicted; conversely, it is hoped that, in time, through exhaustive study of volcanic activities, earthquakes may be predicted with accuracy. The phenomena of the Sakurajima eruption, therefore, are proving of transcendent importance to the scientific world, and the measures which were taken to safeguard life at that time are being eagerly studied anew.

The volcano of Sakurajima, shaped much like Vesuvius, rises to a height of 3,500 feet, directly opposite the city of Kagoshima, in Kagoshima bay—a tongue of water extending some 60 miles into the southern end of Kyushu, the most southerly of the four main islands of the Japanese archipelago. Growths of young pine trees mark the course of old lava flows from the two main craters of the summit.

Warning of Sakurajima Outbreak

Prior to the eruption of 1914, 13 villages, with an aggregate population of 22,000 industrious farmers and fishermen, nestled on the shores of this small volcanic island, which nearly filled the bay between Kagoshima and the Osumi promontory. The channel between the volcano and the city was barely two and one-half miles wide, with a depth of from nineteen to seventy fathoms, while that on the Osumi side was only one-third of a mile wide, with an average depth of more than fifty fathoms. Kagoshima, the thriving capital city of the province, with a population of 70,000, is the center of Satsuma pottery manufacture and of a fertile farming region, producing tobacco, citrus fruit, and sugar cane.

Men of science had long known what lay in store for Kagoshima. Experience had taught observers that when "swarms" of earthquakes begin in the vicinity of an active volcano, the "underground dragon" is writhing and preparing to make trouble.

In 1900 and 1910 two writers published warnings that Sakurajima was likely to erupt explosively after violent premonitory earthquakes.

Rainfall during 1913 at Kagoshima had been unusually light, as had been the case in years and twenty years previous, each of those six years

having been followed by some activity in one or more of the volcanoes on the island of Kyushu. Violent eruptions began in 1913, not at Sakurajima, but on Kirishima, where there were three outbursts, the last two being on November 8 and December 9.

On Sakurajima, however, earthquakes began to occur in "swarms" and people began to jump. Three strong shocks were felt on the afternoon of January 10, followed in the evening by two more. The next morning there were three strong shocks, accompanied by rumblings, before sunrise. The earthquakes now became increasingly alarming. Growling noises preceded some and a roaring, as of escaping gas under pressure, followed others.

People Flee From Eruption. Four hundred seventeen earthquakes were recorded at Kagoshima between 4 a. m., January 11, and 10 a. m., January 12, after which the main eruption of Sakurajima began. Counting the shocks of the 13th, which had begun about 1 p. m., there was immediate forewarning in noises and shakes for 45 hours prior to the explosion.

These warnings were heeded. Every available sampan sculled with frantic speed back and forth across the channel all day Sunday, January 11, moving the natives of the island, their bedding, mats, rice bays, and canary birds, to the mainland. By Monday the army, navy and other government departments, railways and steamship lines were all helping. Sunday afternoon, about two o'clock, during a period of violent quaking, a report came from Tarumi, southeast of Sakurajima, that white smoke was seen rising from the middle of the volcano. The Monday period of seismic activity was strikingly terminated and relieved by the volcanic outbreak of ten o'clock.

The climax came at 10:05, when, in the middle of the side of the mountain toward Kagoshima, the awe-stricken people saw the hard profile of a swelling balloon of black smoke rise majestically from the ground where, an hour before, were orange orchards, terraced fields of sugar cane, and gardens of radishes. Ten minutes after the first outbreak a similar cauliflower column rose from the east flank of the volcano, but this was dwarfed by the towering western shaft with which it eventually merged.

With occasional lulls, but with ever-increasing violence, the booming concussion of the eruption grew more and more terrible. Flashes of lightning danced through the great billows of smoke and dust, and, in the lower portion of the great, black column, vertical lines of upward streaming rocks, bombs, sand, and smoke, curling as high as the mountain itself, could be seen from time to time.

Fatalities in Kagoshima. The crisis, which resulted in the only loss of life during the disaster, occurred at 6:25, when a terrific earthquake threw down walls and buildings at Kagoshima, dislodged railway and telegraph services. Fugitives were trapped in landlides, and a tidal wave, with a ten-foot swing, caused serious damage to small boats in the harbor. Thirty-five persons were crushed to death and 112 were injured.

This quake is to be classed as a "world shaker," for it was recorded on seismographs in Europe. The lava flows from the volcano had begun and the gas explosions had relieved the under earth of millions of tons of matter, so that this quake was probably the evidence of a deep movement, or settling, that had begun along the great chain of Ryu-Kyu volcanoes, extending from Kyushu to Taiwan (Formosa) in a string of islands 900 miles to the southwest.

Simultaneously with the occurrence of the big quake a sudden lava glow was observed on the smokes coming from the volcano. This continued for some time.