

WHAT'S GOING ON

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Two Italians Fly From Rome to Brazil, Establishing New Distance Record.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

TWO Italian aviators, Captain Ferrarin and Major Del Prete, starting from Rome in a Fiat-motored Savoia monoplane, headed for South America on a nonstop flight, reached Brazil in safety, establishing a new record. When they landed near Port Natal they had flown about 4,485 miles, bettering the distance record of 3,900 miles made by Chamberlin and Levine by about 576 miles. These aviators already held the duration flight record of 58 hours, 38 minutes and 26 seconds. When the flyers passed over St. Vincent, Cape Verde islands, approximately 8,000 miles from Rome, they had been up 22 hours with the remarkable average of more than 135 miles an hour. They made the 1,600 miles from there across the south Atlantic ocean at almost equal speed. On the way they were in radio communication with the steamship Philarus and said all was well with them. The flight was made under the auspices of the Italian military aviation service.

ONE of the extraordinary tragedies of aviation occurred last week over the North sea. Capt. Alfred Loewenstein, world-famous Belgian financier and rated as one of the wealthiest men in the world, disappeared from his Fokker plane in which he was crossing from Croynon, England, to Brussels. It was believed that he had mistaken the door by which passengers left the plane for the one to the washroom, and, opening the former, stepped off into space and fell into the sea.

Loewenstein's wealth was estimated to be only less than that of Henry Ford and the Rockefellers.

He controlled steamship lines, was one of the chief stockholders in the Belgian railway system, owned manganese iron mines in Silesia, steel furnaces in the north of Spain, coal properties in the Saar basin and in the Ruhr, and immense rubber plantations in the Congo. Two years ago he startled the world by offering the Belgian government a loan of \$50,000,000 for two years without interest in order that the Belgian franc might be stabilized. The offer was refused. Shortly after this he offered to lend France a like amount at interest of 2 per cent. Quite recently Captain Loewenstein spent several weeks in the United States and Canada on business, traveling most of the time by airplane. He was an enthusiast on aviation and owned a number of big planes which were equipped with office desks and carried a staff of secretaries so he could work while flying.

Immediately after the capitalist's disappearance was reported there were rumors that he had committed suicide because of financial embarrassment following his recent failure to obtain large loans. These stories were denied and were succeeded by reports that he was secretly landed in France from his plane and had been met by an automobile which took him to a place of retreat. On European stock exchanges the Loewenstein shares fell rapidly.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

HOOPER spent Independence day in rest and quiet recreation, but gave up the rest of the week to preparations for his departure from Washington, winding up with a conference on Saturday with prominent eastern Republicans for the purpose of establishing a campaign organization in that section of the country. It was announced that Mr. Hoover would deliver his resignation from the cabinet to President Coolidge at the summer White House on the Brule river. Further than that his plans were not made public. His notification and speech of acceptance will be made in California, the first week in August.

Governor Smith made two speeches on the Fourth of July, one at Tammany hall and the other from the steps of the city hall in New York

city, but in both of them he avoided partisan politics, making only passing allusion to his nomination for the Presidency. Then he went to Albany to attend to state business. His plans called for a campaign conference with Senator Robinson, his running mate, and the Democratic national committee this week. Governor Smith also will be notified of his nomination early in August, and it is asserted that in his speech of acceptance he will make a further pronouncement on his position in the matter of prohibition. Until then he declined to reply to Josephus Daniels, who, while calling on all Democrats to support Smith, said Al had not been given any leadership by the Democratic party to seek to change the Volstead act and that any attempts to weaken the prohibition laws must be fought in congress.

Ernest H. Cherrington, general secretary of the World League Against Alcohol and a leader in the Anti-Saloon league, issued a summons to all friends of prohibition to unite against Smith, asserting that the country faces "what promises to be the greatest 'wet and dry' battle that the nation has ever seen." National Prohibition party chiefs seemed to be at outs as to the party's national convention called for July 10 and 11 in Chicago. Some desired to nominate some prominent dry Democrat, preferably from the South, while others believed it would be best to endorse Hoover. The Anti-Saloon league, scheduled to hold a convention in Asheville, N. C., at the same time, was said not to be co-operating at all with the Prohibition party.

If there is dissension among the dries, there is still greater disagreement among the men who profess to be the leaders of the Middle-West farmers. Gov. Adam McMullen, Republican, of Nebraska; George N. Peek, chairman of the corn belt committee formed in 1923, and some others declared the Democratic plank on farm relief was satisfactory to agriculturists and far superior to the Republican plank, and they predicted the corn belt farmers would vote for Smith. A counterblast came promptly from Senator Brookhart and Governor Hammill of Iowa, who accused Peek of double crossing Lowden and denied the assertions that the farmers were going Democratic. Meanwhile men who think they know the mind of the farmer continue to assert that those who have been Republicans in the past will support Hoover, and those who have been Democratic will cast their votes for Smith.

JEAN LAUSSIER, thirty-six years old, a French Canadian salesman from Springfield, Mass., achieved notoriety and perhaps fame last week by going over Niagara falls in a rubber and steel ball designed by himself. Taken from the river a few hundred feet below the cataract, he was found to be uninjured beyond a few bruises on face and shoulders. He was the third person to perform this feat and live. The others were Bobbie Leach and Annie Edson Taylor, both of whom performed the stunt in barrels. Laussier's rubber ball was eleven feet in diameter. Inside the outer covering was a canvas lining. Then came a steel framework and another canvas lining, and inside all a harness-like arrangement in which the occupant strapped himself. He carried in tanks enough oxygen to keep him alive forty hours.

GERMANY'S model of a treaty for strengthening the means of preventing war was adopted by the committee on security and arbitration of the League of Nations in Geneva, and was ordered sent to all governments in preparation for a general discussion of the subject at the September assembly of the league. The essence of the so-called German treaty is that the nations will bind themselves in advance to accept the recommendations of the league council in the case of a threat of war and to refrain from measures likely to aggravate the dispute. Its object is the same as that of the proposed Kellogg pact—namely: the outlawry of war.

CHIEF feature of the celebration of the Fourth of July by Americans in Paris was the dedication of the beautiful triumphal arch in Parc Villemeuve L'Evang in memory of 67 young American members of the La-

fayette Escadrille who fell in the service of France. Paul Painleve, minister of war, delivered the address to a great throng that included Ambassador Herrick, Marshal Foch and other notables. Ten French army planes droned overhead and as the last salute was fired and taps blown, tribute was paid to each grave in the marble-lined crypt, where the dead birdmen lie four by four in the order in which they fell.

Americans in Shanghai had as a part of their celebration a Wild West rodeo given by the marines, the first ever seen in the Orient. Czechoslovakia made the day, which was also the tenth anniversary of its own independence, the occasion for the dedication of a monument to Woodrow Wilson in Prague.

CROATIA'S threats of demanding complete separation from Serbia because of the killing of two Croatian deputies in the parliament resulted in the resignation of the Yugo-Slavian government. The king began negotiations with party leaders with a view to forming a coalition government that would satisfy the demands of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina for equal representation with Serbia. Italy announced that she would refuse to accept the ratification of the disputed Nettuno treaty unless it was approved by the Croatian deputies.

ENCOURAGEMENT of foreign immigration and capital are the aims of a bill drawn up by officials of the Mexican government for the purpose of rehabilitating Mexican national finances. The measure has been approved by President Calles and also by Alvaro Obregon, who was unanimously elected President of the republic. The proposed law throws overboard most of the disabilities of foreigners and foreign capital. General Obregon's election was unopposed, as he was the sole surviving candidate. His supporters will be in control of the senate, chamber of deputies and state legislatures.

HERMANN MUELLER, the new Socialist chancellor of Germany, announced to the reichstag that Germany is ready for a final discussion of her full reparations debts. "The Dawes plan has been carried out for almost four years and has prepared the ground for a definite settlement," Chancellor Mueller stated. "The exact date of the final agreement remains vague, but matters have progressed so far that all parties concerned are convinced that a definite debt settlement is not only desirable, but also possible."

YOUNG CHANG HSUEH-LIANG, son of the late Marshal Chang, has succeeded to the dictatorship of Manchuria and has made overtures to the Nationalist leaders at Peking looking to the unification of China. General Chang Kai-shek, commander of the Nationalist armies, says that Nanking will become the capital of the country immediately, even if the foreign diplomats should refuse to move there.

REVISED but unofficial figures give first place in the international balloon race, which started from Detroit, to the United States army balloon, with the French bag Blanchard second and the German balloon Barmen third. The bags all landed in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

REHABILITATION of disabled World war veterans, as a government activity, came to an end last week when the last of the 128,500 men who have been trained to be self-supporting, or nearly so, at a total cost of more than \$600,000,000, received their diplomas. The number of men who took advantage of the training offered them far exceeded the original estimates. A total of 334,494 applied for the benefits offered them before June 30, 1923, and of these 216,481 were rated as entitled to full courses. Out of the latter number, 68,873 dropped out. Besides paying for tuition and books, the government provided \$100 a month for single men and \$135 a month for married men with additional allowances for other dependents.

fought and lost his spectacular battle in Wall Street five years ago. As one result of this fight, which he led personally against a "bear" raid on shares of the Figgly-Wiggly Stores, of which he was then president, Saunders relinquished the show place that was reputed to have cost him \$1,000,000.

When finishing touches have been put to the museum it will be valued by the park commission at about \$1,000,000, of which the cost to the city was only \$100,000. Of the latter amount

\$100,000 is for completion of the Pink palace, \$25,000 for the purchase of land.

There will be in the museum exhibits of natural history and industrial art, a history of Memphis and west Tennessee, reference library and reading room, and an auditorium and rooms for community meetings. Flower gardens, tennis courts, swimming pools and recreations of other kinds will be maintained on the spacious grounds which surround the building.

AFTER THE GUARD HAD DESERTED

(By D. J. Walsh.)

THE owner walked swiftly among them, studying the faces and figures through shrewd, half-shut eyes and making an almost imperceptible motion toward one here and one there and another yonder. He was weeding out his help and doing it impartially and imperiously, as was his wont. The foreman walked by his side, noting.

After the owner jumped into his automobile and shot away the foreman went among the hands delivering the sentences. Presently he approached a slight girl who was pasting labels on cans. She had been watching through the corners of her eyes and whitened a little as he stopped by her side.

"I go, too," she said, anticipating him. "I saw it in the way old Half Cent squinted his eyes at me. When do I go?"

"You may work out the day."

"And not come back? All right. But you know, Mr. Halstead, that I'm the best worker you've got in this department. I'm small, but pa says it's all muscle and knots. I've never been sick a day in my life and never get tired, and never shirk when your back is turned, like some do. And—and I like the work I do. It ain't just the number of cents it brings in."

"I know, I know," a little wearily. "But you understand how 'tis. I tried to say something for your tabernacle, Rosa, and you noticed how Mr. Barks whirled and looked at me. If I wasn't for so many depending on me I'd like to be going myself, but—" He drew himself together sharply, glancing about to see if any of the others had overheard. "You—of course, you'll never hint to anybody that I'm dissatisfied. Clara, I'm not. I can't afford to be."

"You're known me too long to say that, Mr. Halstead," said Clara gently. "I guess we're all in the same boat. If things had been all right Tom and I'd have been married long ago."

The foreman nodded sympathetically. "How's your Tom?" he asked.

"Mending slowly, but still on crutches. It's been over six months now and the first two, you know, we didn't think he'd live. That's more of Half Cent's work. Tom was his best picker and in the hurry he kept Tom rushing days and half the nights and then sent him up into the top of that big seedling York to get the stray apples the other pickers had left. And do you know," two red spots burning in her cheeks, "that from the time Tom fell and was carried home old Half Cent has never sent to inquire after him once and he stopped Tom's pay the very day he was hurt."

"It's been a pretty heavy expense to Tom," sympathized the foreman.

"He'd saved nearly enough to build a little house on the lot he bought, and that's gone, and he still owes the doctor some. I've been saving up to buy furniture and dishes, and this is my last day. Yes, I guess we're all in the same boat. You've got six to look out for, and Rosa's sold the cow and calf she's earned. Oh-ho! Say, think there's any danger of a frost tonight?"

"Not the least. The thermometer has been rising for the last two hours. In fact, I believe the reard boys are planning for a dance down the valley tonight."

"Better not let the owner hear of it," said Clara, shaking her head. "It would cost every last one of them his job. It's foolish to leave the orchard during the period of frost danger to the blossoms."

"No danger tonight," declared the foreman, "not in the least."

And so thought Clara when she went to her home through the immense blossom-laden apple orchard after her work was done. The air was almost mild and the night was clear and calm, with myriad stars in the sky, which showed as she passed beneath the trees. Down each alternate row were round black objects that looked like beasts of prey in the semidarkness of the undergrowth. But they were not. They were guards, more than a thousand stoves, filled with crude petroleum and covering 200 acres of blossoming promised fruit. Near the far side of the orchard and only a few rods from the little house where Clara lived with her father was the guard house. Here twelve men slept, fully dressed, in bunka, during the ten days or so of danger to the blossoming trees. When the nights were cloudless, still the cold sometimes dropped, dropped, until it neared the danger point. Then it rang a bell in the guardhouse, awakening the men. The twelve rushed forth with lighted torches and raced along the open stoves, touching each, until the great orchard was like a mighty army bivouacking with a thousand campfires. And just as

soon as the petroleum flared up it raised the temperature five or six degrees in half an hour and enveloped the orchard in a dense black smoke like a cloud. It was a battle of defense—to save a possible \$100,000 worth of fruit. But tonight the temperature was rising and there was to be no frost; so the twelve trusted men of the home guard were stealing away through the orchard to a dance.

Clara could not sleep tonight—and, anyway, sleep did not matter, for she was not to work on the morrow. In the morning expenses would commence eating into the furniture and dishes hoard.

Toward midnight she opened the door and went out. She loved the great orchard and just now it was very beautiful with the bough-laden blossoms sending their rich fragrance into the breezeless night. She had not gone far when the insidious stillness of the cold began to chill her and she looked about, expecting to see the sudden flaring up of the stoves. Then she remembered. The guard had deserted. And it was growing colder.

Clara had no thought for the owner, but she loved the orchard. She sped toward the guardhouse where the torches were kept.

The owner had been out that evening and he returned an hour after midnight complacent with a good dinner and with much flattery for his success as an apple king. At the gate he paused with coat buttoned to his chin and hands in pockets. The thermometer must be in a sickle mood, for it had been rising when he went out, and now it was falling rapidly. He glanced toward the orchard. There were long lines of lights and others flaring up every few seconds. All was well, but he did not open the gate. There was much at stake and he would walk through the orchard himself.

Clara was just rising from the last lighted stove when he appeared in front of her, his face hard and stern. "Where are the men?" he demanded.

"—It does not matter," she answered shortly. "No harm's been done. I've lighted all the stoves and the frost isn't severe enough yet to do any real damage."

"You—lighted all of them," incredulously, "by yourself? How long did it take?"

"About an hour. But I'm strong and can get around fast, than persons who are heavier built. Now I'll go see that none of the fires burn out."

"Wait a minute. Wherever the men are, none of them can come back to work. And you—oh, you are the girl I dismissed yesterday. I suppose you did this to get your job back and maybe in hope of a reward. Well, I never change my mind in such matters, but you shall have the pay of the twelve men who shirked."

He was reaching into his pocket when she whirled on him, drawn to her full height, and her eyes blazing. She had been regarded as a quiet girl of few words, but now the scathing denunciation poured from her lips in a scornful, contemptuous stream. She told him about Rosa, about Tom, about the arbitrary and foolish things he had done—that all his help detested him, though most of them loved the orchard and their work. And he listened at first trying to speak, then silently angry and at last with a curious expression coming into his face.

"And now, you poor silly Half Cent," the angry girl snatched, "I didn't do this with a thought of reward or of going back to work, but because I love the orchard and don't want a single one of the dear blossoms to get hurt."

Whirling the torch about her head to revive the dying flame, she darted back among the trees, not ready even yet to desert her friends, however much she despised their owner.

The next day the foreman sought Clara at her home.

"Here's a letter Mr. Barks told me to bring you," he said. "He's been making some changes. I'm to be the bookkeeper now and shall like that job better. It will be quieter."

Clara opened her letter. It read:

"The best way to acknowledge a mistake is to remedy it. Tomorrow you are to take Mr. Halstead's place as overseer of your department and I want you to engage and dismiss help yourself, in accordance with their ability and interest in the work. Your salary will be what Mr. Halstead received, which, I believe, is about three times your own. If Rosa is competent, take her back. Tom will be sent an order for back pay through his illness and when able to work shall have charge of the orchard gang. He is capable, I believe.

"And, finally, do not feel under any obligations to me. The thousands of dollars you saved me would make that seem wholly trivial. T. M. Barks."

Bird-Long Extinct

The moa was a wingless bird found in New Zealand, somewhat like an ostrich in appearance. It varied from the size of a turkey to birds 12 feet in height. They were edible and their extermination more than 500 years ago is probably due to this fact.

ODD THINGS IN AUSTRALIA



"Laughing Jackasses" of Australia

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

AUSTRALIA, possessor of so many features unfamiliar to the rest of the world, might be catalogued by a nature lover by her trees and her birds. One readily understands why the Australian loves his trees. The groves of giant eucalyptus form pictures never forgotten, and the scent of the wattle brings a homesick feeling like the smell of the sage to a Westerner.

The flora is not only beautiful it is unique, without counterpart in other lands. Of the 10,000 species of plants most of them are purely Australian and are unknown even in New Zealand. The general impression one gets of Australian forests is their total unlikeness to anything seen elsewhere. The great forests of timber trees are not damp and shaded and all of one species, but are well lighted and filled with other forests of shorter trees; in places the woods consist of large widely spaced trees surrounded only by bunch grass, and even in areas where water is not to be found on the surface for hundreds of square miles true forests of low trees are present.

Flora which may be recognized as tulip, lily, honeysuckle and fern like on a surprising aspect. They are not garden flowers, but trees, and the landscape of which they form a part reminds one of the hypothetical representations in books of science of a landscape of Mesozoic time, a period antedating our own by millions of years.

The trees are indeed those of a bygone age. In America and Europe shadowy forms of fossil leaves of strange plant species are gathered from the rock and studied with interest; in Australia many of these ancient trees are living. The impression that one is looking at a landscape which has forever disappeared from other parts of the world is so vivid that the elms and maples and oaks in some of the city streets strike a jarring note. The transition from Jurassic to modern times is pain fully abrupt.

With a flora of such great interest, it occasions no surprise to find that Australia is the home of many eminent botanists, and that geologic history is a common subject of study in schools.

Eucalyptus the National Tree.

Australia is the home of the wonderful eucalyptus, a tree about which a fair-sized library of books and pamphlets has been written, without exhausting the subject. For geologists ages the eucalyptus have remained undisturbed in this "biological backwater," and, spreading over the continent, have adapted themselves to many varieties of soil and climate and elevation. About 300 species have already been discovered in the small part of the continent explored by botanists.

The eucalyptus include some of the tallest trees in the world. The Victorian forests department records trees which measure 329, 333 and 342 feet, and states that there are "scores of trees about 300 feet in height." The surveyor of the Dandenong ranges made notes of the tallest trees felled during an eight-year period and reports that "all those measured were over 300 feet in length."

Eucalyptus trees reproduce themselves readily and grow about seven times more rapidly than oak or hickory. From a ton of bark of the gum tree was obtained by analysis 410 pounds of tannin extract and 200 pounds of oxalic acid. From the gum and leaves of these trees come also

the highly valuable eucalyptus oils, from which no less than twenty-seven constituents have been distilled for pharmaceutical purposes and for the separation of metals by the flotation process.

The eucalyptus is the great timber tree of the continent. Of sixty varieties in Victoria, twenty have high commercial value and are finding an ever-increasing market. The Tasmanian blue gum is one of the strongest, densest, and most durable woods in the world. Timbers 2 feet square, exceeding 100 feet in length, are readily obtained, and, when used for piling, need not be weighted, for the density of the wood is such that it sinks in water. Their strength is twice that of English oak, and they are practically immune from attack by the teredo, which plays such havoc with ordinary timbers.

The jarrah, a eucalyptus of west Australia, is another famous tree. It is one of the few woods of the world which successfully resist the ravages of white ants; it is practically immune from the attacks of marine borers, and, like the iron-bark of Victoria and New South Wales, has been known to withstand fire better than iron girders.

Many Beautiful Birds.

Australia is stocked with beautiful birds, many of them of unusual aspect. The man who originated the popular saying that "Australian birds have plumage, but no song," must have lived in a sound-proof box. Among the 775 species are included some of the most brilliantly colored, sweetest voiced and most unusual birds in the world.

Along the northeast coast is the bower bird, which adorns its nest and decorates its playing ground with shells, seeds, and other bright objects, not despising brass buttons and cartridge cases.

The tyre bird, famous for its plumage, is the rival of the mockingbird of the South in sweetness of tone and skill as a mimic. The crow-shrike ("magpies"), the brown flycatcher ("jacks winter"), the bush warbler, the rock warbler, the reed warbler, the bush lark, the cuckoo, the honey eater, and the "willy wagtail," constitute parts of a bird chorus difficult to surpass. Cockatoos are as common in Australia as crows in the Central West; even in the desert flocks are frequently seen. Some of them are excellent talkers, most of them gorgeously dressed.

A most surprising bird is the kooburra, or laughing jackass. All at once in the quiet bush come loud peals of uproarious, mocking laughter. One is not inclined to join in the merriment—it all seems as foolish and weird as if an idiot boy were disturbing a congregation in church. When the source of the laughter is located it turns out to be a silly-looking bird with clumsy, square body and open mouth, sitting unconcernedly on a stump.

The ibis occurs by thousands, and the gigantic black-necked stork, or Jabiru, standing 5 feet high, inhabits the swamps of the northern coast, while the graceful black swan frequents the estuaries and lakes. The Wallace hen and the brush turkey build mounds of sticks, leaves, and earth 3 to 10 feet high.

The ramswary of the forests of Queensland and Papua and the emu, which is found throughout the Australian region. The emu is the national bird and shares with the kangaroo the task of supplying the people on the commonwealth coast of Australia with a powerful bird and can run 20 miles in 15 to 20 minutes.

Memphis Pink Palace to Be State Museum

The famous Pink palace, built by Clarence Saunders, chain store operator, for a home, soon is to be converted into what the Memphis board of park commissioners hopes to make the outstanding municipal museum in the South.

The massive marble and granite structure, containing 32 rooms besides conservatories and sun porches, had not been completed when Saunders