

SEEN-HEARD around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—A new gold strike in Alaska, old-timers who know that territory is the only thing that will save the pioneers who are now being taken to that distant land by the benevolent government in the hope of giving them a fresh start in life and making them self-supporting.

For the simple truth is that Alaska, while a most interesting part of the world for tourists, is not precisely the sort of Canada that our forefathers came over in the Mayflower, or earlier with John Smith, were seeking. Nor is it the agricultural paradise that the later pioneers found along the Ohio and Missouri rivers. There is plenty of evidence to support this contention, but it is an old saying that no one, much less any government, is willing to profit by another's experience. The cruel facts have to be discovered afresh for each generation.

Warren G. Harding dreamed the same sort of future for Alaska that the Relief Administration envisages for the down and outers it is sending to the frozen North. When a small boy in school, he read about the acquisition of this marvelous territory for only a few million dollars. He had read how more gold than the purchase price had been taken out. Yet there remained marvelous natural resources, coal, lumber, furs, water power without end—and salmon. Not to mention an agricultural domain so rich that its products, put up in glass jars, has played an important part in inducing congress to vote \$50,000,000, in the early Wilson days, for the construction of a railway to open this marvelous territory up to one and all.

The railroad was built, but the expected results did not follow. The population of the territory was actually declining instead of increasing. Harding was told what was the matter. It was that governmental red tape snarled up every effort for advancement. Everything had to be transacted via Washington, which was a long way off, both in miles and time.

Herbert Hoover, then secretary of commerce, was also impressed. He grew fond of the story of the three bears, one variety being under the Department of the Interior, another under Commerce, and the third under Agriculture. He made speeches about the absurdity of it.

So Harding took the three secretaries to Alaska intending to listen to the various problems and difficulties by day, and sit around the table each night with the three cabinet members involved, snipping away the red tape. Beautiful! But what did he find? That if he cut away this red tape, and the red tape winders went back to the states, Alaska would lose its chief industry—red tape winding! The clerks and officials whose jobs depended on this same red tape would return to "civilization" and the white population of Alaska would be reduced by just that number.

Which is no joke at all when it is considered that the total population along the fifty-million-dollar government railroad, from Seward to Fairbanks—longer than from Washington to Boston, just the distance from San Francisco to Los Angeles—is 6,000, including Eskimoes!

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, father of the present incumbent, discovered that the rich agricultural land so much boasted about has a normal rainfall of less than that of eastern Colorado. It would grow good crops the first year after the frozen lands was plowed, and after that would really need irrigation! Secretary Hoover discovered the salmon industry was suffering from too much activity. They were killing off the fish.

Secretary of the Interior Work was distressed to learn that the coal, which had been thought so valuable it had been protected into a naval coal reserve, was of such poor quality and cost so much to get on shipboard, that down through the panhandle, including Juneau and Sitka, they bought coal from British Columbia instead!

All discovered that the boys who had gone to war from Alaska did not come back. They stopped off somewhere in the states where opportunities looked better. So let us hope for the sake of those now pilgrimaging up toward Skagway that a new gold field is discovered!

New Commerce Head Despite the fact that the Chamber of Commerce of the United States has picked a new president who happens to be a very close personal friend of President Roosevelt—a classmate at Harvard, both of old operate New York families, and all that sort of thing—prospects remain that the chamber will continue to have just as little influence in Washington as it has since Hoover left the White House.

If anyone could be calculated to "get somewhere" with the White House, it would be Harper Sibley. In the first place, the personal relation of the two families is so close that Mrs. Roosevelt, who stopped in Rochester with Mrs. Caroline D'Orsay

last fall, stayed at the Sibley home. In the second, Mr. Sibley's economic views are by no means as far removed from those of the President as the news dispatches about the chamber's meeting would have one believe. A very close friend of many years' standing tells the writer that he is one of those rich men who regard the rich as being "trustees," not "holders" of wealth! Which sounds very New Dealist, indeed.

There is another angle, however, on which his fellow members of the chamber, in picking him for president, relied, rather than on their misinformation about his economic views. This is his ability to work out a compromise, and to induce those with whom he is working to co-ordinate. He is said by those associated with him, either in his lines of business, charitable or church interests, to be marvelously persuasive, though no one claims that he is an orator.

But the whole picture is wrong—meaning the picture viewed by those who think that Mr. Sibley is going to be able to steer the President tactfully away from the New Dealers and brain trusters, and back into safe and sane economic channels. President Roosevelt is just not that kind of person, and there is no club, whatever, in Mr. Sibley's hands which rouses any fear, whatever, in political minds.

Can't Scare 'Em It is not possible for an organization like the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to frighten politicians. It is a collection of very potent figures, in business, but their potency is too diffuse, too scattered, spread out too thin, to bother men running for the house or senate. Or even for President.

Two accomplishments very dear to business hearts have been put over in the last few months, but the machinery that accomplished it was not the chamber, nor any other huge aggregation of widely diversified and spread out business interests.

One of these was repeal of the pink slip publicly for income tax returns. This was done by two agencies, working independently. One stirred up the newspaper editors of America. Practically all of them began writing editorials against income tax publicity, many of the editorials advising people to write to their senators and representatives. Later they carried extensive stories about the effect of letters and telegrams on congress, which naturally provoked more.

The other was the Pitkin organization, which circulated repeal slips, and worked up the people to write to Washington. It was this resulting avalanche of letters which did the trick.

Then there was the modification of the public utility holding company legislation. This was made possible, despite the power of the President on Capitol Hill, by the utilities inducing their stockholders to write to their senators and representatives. Most of the legislators were amazed to find how many utility stockholders were among their constituents. And when they saw these stockholders were watching the legislation, the picture changed.

Bailey's Big Fight Two generations ago Arthur Poe Gorman, senator from Maryland, won undying fame, and nearly attained the Presidency by conducting a filibuster which killed the famous so-called Force bill.

Today North Carolina's senator, Josiah Bailey, is conducting a fight just as dear to southern hearts—the battle against the anti-lynching bill.

The cleavage is also practically the same lines—almost strictly geographical. The chief difference is that in those days northern Democrats and western Democrats—though there were mighty few of them in office—stood shoulder to shoulder with the southern wing of the party. Today the bill so obnoxious to southerners is actually sponsored by a New York Democrat, Senator Robert F. Wagner. Both Kentucky senators are voting with its advocates. (Kentucky has a lot of negroes voting!)

Maryland, though its percentage of negroes voting is as great as that of Kentucky, stands firm by the Gorman tradition. There is a reason, too. Remember what happened to Governor Ritchie?

Boosters of the anti-lynching bill insist the spirit is entirely different from that of the bill talked to death under Gorman's filibuster, despite heroic attempts to force it through by Henry Cabot Lodge. They say anyone who opposes the bill condones lynching. Southerners point to the statistics, which prove that lynchings have decreased amazingly, and ask why the federal government should trample state rights to intervene in a situation which is fast correcting itself.

The object of the present anti-lynching bill is to prevent mobs interfering in the administration of justice—knewledly. Actually its chief purpose is to curry favor with negro voters in the northern, western and border states of those fighting for the bill. It is as purely a local interest bill as a tariff measure. Liked in communities where products are protected, hated in communities which as a result may have to pay higher prices.

Chinese War Minister Honors Our Marines



For the first time a Chinese minister of war held a review and inspection of United States troops on Chinese soil when Gen. Ho Ying-ching reviewed the marines of the American legation guard in Peiping. He is here seen presenting the first certificate for proficiency in the Chinese language to a marine "graduate" of the school which was started by Col. F. M. Rixey, seen at the right.

Poland Is Growing Aggressive Nation

Taking Its Place in Spotlight of World Affairs.

Washington.—Poland's strategic position between Soviet Russia and militant Germany brings this aggressive European nation more and more into the spotlight of world affairs. "Twenty years ago the name of Poland could not have been found on any map of Europe," says the National Geographic society. "Today it is the sixth largest nation in Europe, with a steadily increasing population that will soon reach 40,000,000."

"One before Poland was a great power. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries its territory extended from a point within fifty miles of Berlin to the meridian of the Sea of Azov, and from the Khasate of Crimea nearly to the Gulf of Finland. In those days Warsaw, next to Paris, was the most brilliant city in Europe.

Divided by Powers. "Then came weak rulers and internal dissension that paved the way for Prussian, Russian, and Austrian expansion. In the three disastrous partitions of 1772, 1793, and 1795 these powers divided Poland between them, then legalized the proceedings by the congress of Vienna in 1815.

"The state had ceased to exist, but the people never lost their fierce nationalism. After a century and a half of oppression came the proud day in November, 1918, when Marshal Pilsudski returned to Warsaw to be acclaimed as chief of the new independent Polish state. The treaty of Versailles established the western boundaries of the new nation, and after a serious struggle with Russia, the eastern border was fixed by the Riga treaty of 1921.

"Under Pilsudski's leadership Poland has developed rapidly, despite tremendous handicaps. Long years of fighting had devastated the land. Russia, Prussia, and Austria each left the stamp of its domination, different systems of government, education, and law.

"The Versailles treaty left Poland surrounded by nations jealous of land that had once been theirs. Today peaceful relations have been established, particularly with Germany and Russia. It is significant that the last year these two nations, together with Great Britain, provided the best markets for Polish trade.

"Pilsudski remains the arbiter and hero of his country. Economic Progress. "Economic progress has kept step with political growth. Devastated areas have been reconstructed. From marshlands to mountains, agriculture has been brought back to pre-war levels. Factories idle or destroyed have been rehabilitated. The currency has been stabilized. Railway mileage has been increased, and a uniform gauge adopted so that rails bind Poland together instead of tearing it apart.

"The Pole, whose horsemanship

is admired throughout the world, has taken to the air with dash and spirit. Captain Orlnski linked Warsaw with Tokyo. Colonel Bayski circled Europe in the air. Captain Skarynski and Lieutenant Markiewicz made the tour of Africa in 1931. The Polish air line, Lot, covers the whole of eastern Europe from Tallin to Salonika, and there is a regular internal service between Warsaw and all important cities. In 1934 direct service was opened between London and Warsaw and Warsaw and Moscow.

"A new railway from Upper Silesia along the Polish Corridor to the new Baltic port of Gdynia assures Poland's economic freedom. In less than a decade a dowdy fishing village was turned into a modern city whose harbor can accommodate 50 vessels at a time.

"More densely populated than Pennsylvania, Poland is still an agricultural nation; and the consequent elasticity of its labor supply, the economic independence of its peasants, and the modesty of their needs give it social stability in spite of the rapid growth of urban and industrial life. "Monotony is the keynote of Polish geography. Rolling plains that connect the lowlands of Germany with the Russian plains form the main part of the country. Through the central portion flows the sluggish Vistula. Yet in the south there are idyllic mountain retreats of rare beauty. Through the unusual Krakow Protocol, Poland and Czechoslovakia agreed to turn the whole Tatry mountain region into one splendid international park—a buffer park instead of a buffer state."

U. S. Exposes Ring of Jewel Thieves

Most Extensive Racket Turned Up in Years.

New York.—The Department of Justice is seeking to break up an organization of jewel thieves, whose operations were described by J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the division of investigation, as the most extensive racket "turned up" by his men in recent years.

Rhea Whitley, chief of the New York bureau, announced that the Department of Justice is inquiring into the \$185,000 gem robbery at the Miami (Fla.) Biltmore hotel, in which Mrs. Margaret Hawkesworth Bell, former dancer, was the principal victim.

The ring of jewel thieves, Hoover said, appeared to have operated all along the eastern seaboard, with members of many prominent families among their victims. The procedure of the ring, according to first reports to Washington officials, appeared to have been to steal jewels, which were later restored to the owners after payments of substantial rewards.

In the Miami development of the case, Mr. Hoover charged that the gems stolen from Mrs. Bell were recovered in a lock box in Miami. The earlier story that the jewels had been placed in a police automobile by an unknown person was branded a hoax. The key to the lock box, and directions how to reach it, according to Hoover, were supplied to the Miami police by Noel Scaife, New York private detective who has figured in the recovery of the loot of other jewel thefts.

Scaife, against whom no charges of wrongdoing were made, spent four hours recently before the federal grand jury here, and his attorney, Isidor Bregoff, commented that it was strange that the private detective, who frequently represents insurance companies in their search for stolen jewels, "should have been called just before the Miami trial."

This referred to the trial of Nicholas Montone, alias Nick Marlowe, and Charles Calt, both of whom were said by police to have con-

Indian Gods Defied by Medicine Man

Omaha.—Denis Chilli-Betusa, youngest medicine man in the Navajo nation, dared the wrath of the gods of his fathers and allowed a photograph to be taken of his sacred sand-painting during a recent appearance.

According to Bertion I. Staples, director of a tour in the interests of the Navajos, it was the first time in the history of the tours that such an act had been permitted.

To the Navajos, the mere action of taking a picture robs the subject of some mysterious substance. The taboo-applied particularly to religious ceremonies. The medicine man paints by dribbling brightly colored sand on a neutral background. Designs are conventionalized representations of spirits, natural forces and natural objects, each conveying a Navajo myth.

Patent Granted for New Variety of Peach Tree

Washington.—A patent for a new variety of peach tree, said to be drought and cold resistant, has been issued to Donald E. Byers, horticulturist, of Clyde, Ohio.

It was the first patent granted for a plant specifically grown to combat drought and cold. Byers will be afforded the same protection as a person with a patented mechanical invention or chemical formula.

The new peach tree is known as the "Harder" variety. It was developed from a species found in northern Ohio near Lake Erie. Widespread attention was accorded the trees last summer when they bore a full crop after the severe winter of 1933-34 had wiped out virtually all of the Michigan and Ohio peach crop.

Smart Daytime Fashions of

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



LACE epidemic is raging throughout the realm of fashion. You couldn't escape wearing lace if you would and you wouldn't if you could, not after you have seen the charming, smart and flattering apparel designers are creating of lace this season.

Not in all the centuries past has lace played so versatile a role as it is now playing. Fashion has decreed that we are not only to dine and to dance and attend functions of high degree clad in filmy, exquisitely patterned lace but we are to wear tailored lace in the daytime, go swimming in lace bathing suits, make our smartest sports clothes of lace tuned to the occasion and if we keep pace with the mode our lace-gloved hands will carry handbags of lace. The newest number of the summer program is the all-lace hat; also capes, jackets and evening wraps that are fashioned of lace.

The idea of lace used in a fabric way has been welcomed by designers as a new avenue of expression for their talents. The outstanding gesture of the moment is the shirred waist dress which is tailored of fabriclike lace. It is smart in navy and other dark colors and it is adorable in all new pastels. We predict that the new season will not be far spent ere the majority of us will be going about in these fluttering lace shirred waists. For a summer of travel and week-end visits a lace shirred waist is ideal, for it packs without creasing or wrinkling and it looks smart wherever one goes in the daytime.

Lace has been shown in beautiful and striking creations at every

Paris collection this season and our own American designers are equally as enthusiastic and exciting in their use of it. While lace is fashionable for every hour of the twenty-four, the big news about lace is its acceptance as a medium for practical daytime clothes.

One of the most distinctive daytime lace costumes of the Paris season is shown to the right in the illustration. It is a Martial et Armand creation in answer to the call for an ensemble that would be appropriate for the races without having to resort to a formal full-length gown. A beautiful pattern of crepe in cotton lace was selected to pose over black silk. Both the dress and jacket are made of this combination of black all-silk crepe and lace. The black crepe is used also for the belt, which ties like a sash.

While the all-lace theme is vastly important, it is not any more so than is that of lace used in a trimming way. Lace edgings and trims cannot be let out even in tailored things. For instance Dikmuth tailors a blouse (pictured to the left) of navy blue linen using narrow white val lace on the sleeves and the cuffs and in rows up and down the front. In fact, all of the French designers are making voluminous use of val lace for trimming this season.

Speaking of lace sports fashions, you will be wanting one of the new jacket-wraps made of cotton linen in the color you like best. They are to be worn over your linen and pique frocks this summer.

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GRAY IS MODISH



Among best dressed followers of fashion gray is proving a favorite. Gray woollens fashioned into coats, suits and tailored street dresses make special appeal. The gray woolen dress here pictured is typical of the sort of costume worn by the smart set. The stunning cape is lined with red woolen and is detachable, in that it buttons on to the sleeves.

For Buttons Appear Fur buttons fasten a number of smart spectator sports costumes worn in Paris. Bone buttons are also seen on a number of jackets.

Fluttering Silks to Please Fluttering silks and fluttering furs will be worn by ladies to please their eyes.

NEW BLOUSES HAVE FEMININE ACCENTS

When considering blouse, remember they have gone feminine. Some of them are even made of chiffon. Soft lines, delicate colors, ruffles, all the typical feminine accents, make this season's styles.

For example, shirring is smart and new. Shirred collars, cuffs and pockets, shirred shoulders, even shirred sleeves, are among the most popular style notes. One of the smartest of these is shirred in black at the neckline, just as a peasant frock. But it doesn't stop there. Three rows of shirring are used to set the sleeves into the blouse.

New Short Stockings Are Popular for Sports Wear

For sportswear and dancing young girls are going enthusiastically for the new stockings that stop just below the knee and have flexible tops to hold them up without garters. The makers call their new knee-length stockings "Eighteens," for there are just 18 inches of sheer silk to these brief affairs. Cool and comfortable for warm weather, "Eighteens" are also the answer to the question of what to wear with the new garterless girdles.

Cellulose Tissue Fabrics All Glitter Like Metal

Wonders no end! The new "glitter fabric" heralded earlier in the year has been duplicated in several cellulose tissue fabrics for the straight spring wardrobe. The fabric is much like the tissue used in wrappings and has a sparkling effect when first seen. It is stiff as mure but very light in weight, it is durable, and glitters like metal cloth.

You'll find it in black, white and rainbow colors and wear it in gorgeous evening gowns, formal blouses and collar and cuff sets that look a formal gown in the street, perfect for afternoon.