

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Statesmen at London Conference Try to Pull Germany Out of Financial Morass—President Hoover Offers Plan.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald

FOUR resolutions or recommendations, devised by the committee of finance ministers and adopted by the seven-power conference in London, comprised the total results of the parley, and it was the opinion of experts that little if anything had been done for the actual relief of Germany. The plan includes the suggestions of President Hoover, which Secretary Stimson said were really both American and British in conception. Here, briefly summarized, are the recommendations adopted:

First—That the central banks and the World Bank for International Settlements extend the \$100,000,000 German credit for a further period of three months.

Second—That private banks be urged to leave their credits now in Germany in German hands for the present.

Third—That a world bank committee be appointed to consider the questions of short-term loans to Germany and the conversion of existing short-term loans to long-term loans.

Fourth—That the conference "note with satisfaction" the action of German industrialists in creating a reserve of approximately \$125,000,000 on the German gold discount bank.

After the conference adjourned, Chancellor Brüning and Minister Curtius consulted the American delegates concerning the possibility of arranging a new long-term loan. If France refused to participate, they thought the loan might be made by America, Great Britain and several other countries.

Herr Brüning also conferred with Premier Laval of France on the possibility of the latter visiting Berlin within the next three months.

That France is not at all in sympathy with the Hoover credits proposal was made clear by Premier Laval when he informed the conference: "Our country saved herself in 1926. That is an example which Germany should meditate upon."

Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald presided over the sessions of the conference, and at its opening he sought to impress on the delegates the imperative need of speedy and decisive action. "If we cannot find a solution of the present crisis," said he, "no one can foretell the political and financial dangers that will ensue. It will be difficult to stay the flood before it has overwhelmed the whole of central Europe, with consequences social and political, as well as purely financial, which no man can estimate. Time is against us. Every day adds to the risks of a collapse which will be outside of human control."

WHILE statesmen in London were trying to reach conclusions that might result in the complete abandonment of the projected Austro-German customs union by the German government, the World court in The Hague opened a hearing on the proposal that has been so dear to the hearts of the officials in Berlin.



Dr. Rottenberg

Before the court took up the case President Adachi of Japan installed Judges de Bustamante of Cuba and Wang of China, who were not present at the last session.

After this preliminary, the full court, including Frank E. Kellogg of the United States, began the hearing, with the governments of Germany, Austria, France, Italy and Czechoslovakia as parties to the case. They were represented by an army of agents, counsels, advocates, and assistants. The Austrian agent, Prof. Eric Kauffmann, was accompanied by an American, A. S. Feller, of the New York bar.

Diplomats from Vienna indicate that Austria is not nearly so eager for the customs union as she was before the present financial crisis hit Germany. Indeed, the Austrian government may drop the plan entirely. It is now engrossed in trying to extricate Austria from its own financial difficulties. Dr. Franz Rottenberg, who, until recently was director general of the Bank of Austria, has been

called on for help and has been made director of the Austrian credit bureau. It will be his task to arrange a national credit and budget system which, it is hoped, will pull the nation out of the hole.

FRANCE took advantage of the international confabs to start a campaign for putting teeth in the Kellogg pact and in the League of Nations covenant. A memorandum issued at the Quai d'Orsay, replying to the league's request for information on armed strength, contained the official view that disarmament cannot be accomplished unless an international armed force is set up under the aegis of the league, or reciprocal obligations are undertaken to prevent aggression by a military force. The document gave no precise figures on France's armaments, but did declare that those armaments have been reduced to the lowest possible point "under present conditions in Europe and the world." National security is still the slogan of France, and she insists on guarantees if her armaments are to be modified.

The memorandum finally contends that insecurity for one state means insecurity for all, and the idea of neutrality is incompatible with the notion of solidarity of states.



Gov. Murray

SHOULD "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, governor of Oklahoma, seek any other office, it is likely he would receive a large part of the motorist vote of the state. He has been engaged in a contest with Gov. Ross S. Sterling of Texas over toll and free bridges across the Red river, which separates the two states, and for a time at least the result was that automobiles crossed the river on free spans, excepting the one at Denison, Texas, and the owners of toll bridges were doing no business. At the south end of the Denison free bridge Texas rangers were stationed by order of Governor Sterling to stop traffic after Oklahoma officers had torn down a barrier that had been erected. In retaliation, Governor Murray had highway crews tear up the approaches to toll spans that are near two free bridges. The Denison toll bridge was blocked at the Oklahoma end, forcing traffic to make a 20-mile detour to the free bridge at Preston.

Oklahoma highway employees said they had received orders to begin tearing up a section of road near Achilles, Okla., leading to K. O. & G. railroad bridge at Carpenter's Bluff, eight miles east of Denison. The railroad bridge has a toll runway for vehicles.

Involved in the controversy are a federal injunction and a contract with toll bridge owners. J. J. Loy, Texas state senator, prominent in highway affairs, informed Governor Sterling that he considered the Texas executive had overstepped his authority in sending rangers to block the Denison free bridge. "The bridge was closed by a federal injunction and keeping it closed was a matter for federal officers," Loy said.

BAD weather conditions marred the 1931 national balloon elimination race which started at Akron, Ohio, and the contest was decidedly unsatisfactory. First place was won by the United States navy bag which was piloted by Lieuts. T. G. M. Settle and Wilfred Bushnell. Second place went to the Goodyear-Zeppelin Goodyear VIII, piloted by Frank Trotter, and third honors to the W. J. R. of Detroit, guided by Ed J. Hill and Arthur Schlosser.



Lieut. Bushnell

The navy balloon landed at Marilla, N. Y., after covering a distance of 215 miles. The Goodyear came to earth about two hours later at Stevensville, Ont., 190 miles from her starting point, while the W. J. R. came down at Wesleyville, Pa., near Erie, after covering only 115 miles.

The army balloon No. 1, piloted by Capt. Karl S. Axtater and Lieut. H. S. Couch, had to cover only about 80 miles to take fourth place in the contest. This bag came down at Custards, Pa., after running into a storm. The same storm forced down L. P. Furculow and John Rieker, the Akron balloon pilots, who landed four miles

north of Havana to take fifth place after traveling only about 20 miles.

A second army balloon, piloted by Lieuts. Edgar Fogessonger and John A. Tarro, was lost, with a flight of only 35 minutes. It covered only 32 miles before coming down. As a result of the contest, the navy and Goodyear balloons will represent the United States along with W. T. Van Orman of Akron in the International Gordon Bennett race.

TRANSPORTED from El Paso, Texas, in an ambulance, Albert B. Fall, former secretary of the interior, entered the New Mexico penitentiary at Santa Fe to serve a sentence of a year and a day for bribery in federal oil leases. He was put in the prison hospital, where he is expected to serve his time. The usual photographing, finger printing, classification and numbering routine was dispensed with until Fall is reported by the prison physician, Dr. E. W. Fiske, as able to stand these details.

Interviews by the press with Fall were forbidden by the United States Department of Justice in a letter of instructions to Warden Ed Swope of the New Mexico penitentiary.



Amos W. Woodcock

WHAT was said to be the largest prohibition investigation ever undertaken came to a climax in Baltimore when a federal grand jury returned three indictments charging 53 corporations and individuals in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan and Ohio with conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws. The investigation was begun in August, 1929, after the seizure in Baltimore of three big stills used for cracking and redistilling commercial alcohol for beverage purposes. More than 130 witnesses, including Prohibition Director Woodcock, Dr. James M. Moran, former director and officials of the attorney general's office appeared before the grand jury, which cost the government \$500,000.

Among those indicted were the United States Industrial Alcohol company, and its subsidiary, the United States Industrial Chemical company of West Virginia and Maryland, the largest industrial alcohol company in the country.

According to the charges, the conspiracy was started in 1927, and corporations were formed for the purchase of industrial alcohol so it could be resold to other individuals for conversion into beverage channels. It was said the ring operated plants at Cleveland, Erie, Pa., Paterson, N. J., and Fredonia, and Florida, N. Y.

OUR eight new 10,000-ton cruisers, it has been found, roll so badly in rough water that the effectiveness of their gunfire is impaired. Therefore they are to be altered. Already anti-rolling tanks and larger bilge keels are being put in the Pensacola and the Northampton and if these changes are successful the other cruisers also will have them. Navy officials said the seriousness of the roll had been exaggerated. The seven cruisers now building have been so modified in design, it was said, that the tendency to roll will be eliminated.

HEAT continues to be a live topic for a considerable part of the country's population, and scarcely a day passes without either an attack on the policy of the farm board or a defense of its way of doing business. The price having dropped to 25 cents a bushel or even lower in the Southwest, the growers are using their grain in ways heretofore unknown. In the Texas panhandle it is accepted as admissions to theaters, and by dentists and newspapers in lieu of cash. Many of the southwestern farmers are feeding wheat to poultry, cattle and hogs and using it for fuel. A judge in Dodge City, Kan., offers to marry couples for ten bushels of the grain, and in several cities motor companies take it in exchange for used cars at the rate of 50 cents a bushel.

SYNDICALISTS are causing a lot of trouble in Spain, and it is a question whether the new republic will be able to survive. Rigorous demonstrations in Seville resulted in the death of nearly a score of persons, and martial law was proclaimed there.

It was predicted that when the assembly was formally constituted the cabinet would resign immediately, that Alcalá Zamora would be elected president and that he would summon either Manuel Azana, present war minister, or Alejandro Lerroux, foreign minister, to the premiership.

The proclamation declaring martial law in Seville set forth that troops would fire on the slightest warning and that, therefore, residents had best keep off the streets and out of balconies. Resistance to the military will result in immediate court-martial. The troops were ordered to use heavy artillery to destroy houses from which sniping has been going on.



Street in Agana, Guam.

IN THE interests of governmental economy the lonely island of Guam, one of the smallest of American possessions, will be taken from the list of American naval bases and turned over to another government department, possibly the Department of Interior, which has already suggested that Guam would make an attractive national park.

Guam's military importance has always been theoretical, but as part of the chain of mid-Pacific American stepping stones, leading from California through the Hawaiian Islands to the Philippines, Guam has also provided a handy landing place and relay station for cable lines across the Pacific, and a base for repairs and supplies for American vessels plying midway lanes. More than 1,100 miles of open water separate it from the Philippines while the ocean jump to Midway, nearest of the Hawaiian Islands, is even greater—some 1,700 miles.

Guam's strategic value is out of all proportion to its size and population. In area it is about three and a half times as large as Nantucket, having a length of less than 70 miles and an average width of about six miles. Only 18,020 people, more than nine-tenths of whom are native Guamanese, a people similar to the Filipinos, inhabit this crowded oasis. The population, however, is growing. It jumped 40 per cent in the last decade.

The island of Guam was discovered on March 6, 1521, by Magellan, after a passage of three months and twenty days from the strait which bears his name.

Raided by Magellan.

The natives of Guam came to meet the Spaniards in strange "flying praus" (canoes provided with outriggers and triangular sails of mats). The Spaniards had dropped anchor, furled their sails, and were about to land, when it was discovered that a small boat which rode astern of the flagship was missing. Suspecting the natives of having stolen it, Magellan himself went ashore at the head of a landing party of 40 armed men, burned 40 or 50 houses and many boats, and killed seven or eight natives, male and female. He then returned to his ship with the missing boat and immediately set sail, continuing his course to the westward.

The natives did not fare much better at the hands of later visitors. Missionaries came in 1668.

Though Guam lies within the tropics, its climate is tempered throughout the greater part of the year by a brisk trade wind blowing from the northeast and east. Its mountains are not high enough to cause marked differences in the distribution of rain on the island, and the island is not of sufficient extent to cause the daily alternating currents of air known as land and sea breezes. Generally speaking, the seasons conform in a measure with those of Manila, the least rain falling in the colder months or the periods called winter by the natives, and the greater rainfall occurring in the warm months, which are called summer by the natives.

Though the mean monthly temperature varies only 2 degrees on either side of the mean annual temperature, yet the "winters" of Guam are so definitely marked that certain wasps which during the summer make their nests in the open fields among the bushes invade the houses of the people at that season and hibernate there.

The forest vegetation of Guam consists almost entirely of strand trees, epiphytall ferns, lianas, and a few undershrubs. The majority of the species are included in what Schimper has called the Barringtonia formation. The principal trees are the wild fertile breadfruit; the Indian almond; jack-in-the-box, and the giant banyan.

How They Catch Fish.

The fruit of another common tree (Barringtonia speciosa) the natives use to stupefy fish. The fruit is pounded into a paste, inclosed in a bag, and kept over night. The time of an especially low tide is selected, and bags of the pounded fruit are taken out on the reef next morning and sunk in certain deep holes in the reef. The fish soon appear at the surface, some of them lifeless, others attempting to swim, or faintly struggling with their

ventral side uppermost. The natives scoop them in their hands, sometimes even diving for them.

Nothing more striking could be imagined than the picture presented by the conglomeration of strange shapes and bright colors—snake-like sea eels, voracious lizard-fishes, parrot-like houndfishes, with their jaws prolonged into a sharp beak; long snouted trumpet fishes, flounders, porcupine fish, bristling with spines; squirrel fishes of the brightest and most beautiful colors—scarlet, rose color and silver, and yellow and blue; parrot fishes, with large scales, parrot-like beaks, and intense colors, some of them a deep greenish blue, others looking as though painted with blue and pink opaque colors; variegated Chnetodons, called "sea butterflies" by the natives; trunkfishes with horns and armor, leopard-spotted groupers, hideous-looking, warty toadfishes, armed with poisonous spines, much dreaded by the natives, and a black fish with a spur on its forehead.

In the mangrove swamps when the tide is low hundreds of little fishes with protruding eyes may be seen hopping about in the mud and climbing among the roots of the Rhizophora and Brugiera. These belong to a group of fishes interesting from the fact that their air bladder has assumed in a measure the function of lungs, enabling the animal to breathe atmospheric air.

Natives of Good Appearance.

The natives of Guam are, as a rule, of good physique and pleasing appearance. Owing to their mixed blood, their complexion varies from the white of a Caucasian to the brown of a Malay. Most of them have glossy black hair, which is either straight or slightly curly. It is worn short by the men and long by the women, either braided, coiled, or dressed after the styles prevailing in Manila.

Though the natives of Guam are naturally intelligent and quick to learn, little was done for their education until comparatively recent years. The college of San Juan de Letran was founded by Queen Maria Anna of Austria, widow of Philip IV, who set upon it an annual endowment of 3,000 pesos. Through misappropriation and dishonesty the annual income of the college gradually dwindled to about 1,000 pesos. The greater part of this was absorbed by the rector, who was usually the priest stationed at Agana, and by the running expenses of the school, which were the subsistence and wages paid to janitor, porter, steward, doctor, and the lighting of the building.

The people are essentially agricultural. There are few masters and few servants on the island. As a rule the farms are not too extensive to be cultivated by the family, all of whom, even the little children, lend a hand. Often the owners of neighboring farms work together in communal fashion, one day on A's corn, the next day on B's, and so on, laughing, singing, and skylarking at their work and stopping whenever they feel so inclined to take a drink of tuba from a bamboo vessel hanging to a neighboring coconut tree.

Each does his share without constraint, nor will he indulge so freely in tuba as to incapacitate himself for work, for experience has taught the necessity of temperance, and every one must do his share if the services are to be reciprocal. In the evening they separate, each going to his own rancho to feed his bullock, pigs and chickens.

Agana, the seat of government and principal town, is about eight miles from Apra harbor, a fine anchorage but closed to all foreign ships. Guam is a lonely spot, seeing only an occasional army or navy transport, the mail steamer, and a few American commercial ships. Tourists are unknown.

The official currency of the island is that of the United States, but the old Spanish code of laws, slightly modified, still is effective. English, Spanish and native languages are spoken. The schools are conducted in English. The principal exports are copra and coconut oil.

The governor of the island, a naval officer appointed by the President, takes precedence over and is entitled to the honors due to an admiral.