

1.—View of Enniskillen, on the Uister border, scene of fierce fighting in the Irish factional warfare. 2.—Room in the palace in Genoa where the economic conference opened. 3.—Fuad, first king of Egypt in two thousand

### **NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS**

Russian Delegates Start Rows in the Economic Conference in Genoa.

### INSISTING ON DISARMAMENT

Lloyd George's Plan for Ten-Year Peace Pact-Germans Expect Discussion of Reparations-Senate's Tariff Bill Reported-Progress of Fight to Save Navy.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ACKING the spirit that animated the Washington conference, that of reaching an agreement, the European economic conference which opened last week in Genoa may nevertheless, manage to evolve some comprehensive project that will meet the needs of the old world. Premier Lloyd George, who is dominating the meeting, bewill. Many other eminent men and a great many European newspapers are skeptical. Already it is evident that if any definite agreement of wide scope is reached, it must be through the yielding of France and the smaller nations that are members of the French "bloc."

Soviet Russia, through its spokes man, Tchitcherin, though accepting the "civilized nation test" of the Cannes agreement in order to obtain a seat in the conference, is still insistent and almost obstreperous, being bolstered by the support of the Germans and certain of the neutral nations and by the universally admitted fact that Europe cannot be restored economically until Russia is again one of the family of nations. At the very outset Tchitcherin, after accepting the Cannes conditions, precipitated an angry debate with the French by insisting that it was necessary to discuss disarmament. Lloyd George quieted the uproar by saying:

"Gentlemen we have agreed not to discuss disarmament, and therefore our French colleague is right, but we must not waste our time in argument. We must get on. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the conference will naturally result in disarmament."

Next day the Russians protested the presence of the Japanese and the Rumanians, because Japan and Rumania are "unlawfully occupying Russian territories in Siberia and Bes-Viscount Ishii replied that Japan would take part in the confer ence in spite of the Russian objections, and Bratiano, premier of Ruasserted that Bessarabla. which is mainly populated by countrymen, had been awarded to by the allies. Premier Rumania Facta of Italy, who had been elected permanent president of the conference, ruled that in any case the invitations were irrevocable, and the Bolshevik delegates hugged themselves with glee because the ruling means that they cannot be ousted even if they later repudiate the Cannes conditions.

Organization of the committees brought more trouble. The first and chief one, to deal with Russian affairs, is made up of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany Russia, Belgium and Japan, and of Poland, Rumania, Sweden and Switzerland, elected by the little powers. Tchitcherin demanded that Russia be given two members on this committee because of her special position, but there was such strenuous objection that he sub-Barthou for France sided. Theunys for Belgium wanted Russia and Germany excluded from this committee, to which Lloyd George replied that in that case the conference might as well be abandoned immediately.

Russia, it was stated in Genoa, was ready to give all the financial guarantees demanded in the program which the experts of the allies prepared last month in London, but would not accept the clause providing for mixed tribunals to fix responsibility, considering the latter an infringement of Russian sovereignty. The soviet delegation had an alternate plan pre-

presentation to the conference a mutual guaranty pact, a variation of Article X of the League of Nations covenant, by which wars in Europe would be prohibited for ten years. He thinks that if this were adopted, with a penalty clause that all other nations should unite against any power invading or wantonly attacking another, the soviet Red army could be disbanded, and the little entente and eventually France could reduce the size of their land forces. France and Poland claim they must main tain large armies to meet the threat of Russia against the Poles, though it is generally understood the French really, have, in mind action against Germany in case the reparations are not paid. The delegates from the little entente, though not entirely satisfled with the form of this plan, it is said will support it on two conditions: That their right under existing treaties to invade Hungary in case of an attempted Hapsburg restoration be integrally maintained, and that the signatory nations agree to help one another by force of arms against any one who breaks the pact. It was expected that both France and Great Britain would support them in the first condition but that the latter would oppose the second, because she wished to model the pact on the Washington treaty in order to please America and because the British are not willing to engage to send troops

Up to this time the Germans haven't had much to say in the conference, but in the first meeting of the committee on finance Herr Hermas, German minister of finance, started some thing of a row by alluding to the reparations. Picard of France angrily objected to even the mention of the Of course, however, the Germans expect the subject will have to be handled by the conference ultimately, and in this they are supported by Premier Branting of Sweden, who really is spokesman for the neutral nations. He declares flatly that the treaties of the entente with its former enemies must be revised; and he also approves of Tchitcherin's disarmament proposals, asserting that this is the biggest thing before the confer-Russia says ter budget is covered by the revenues and that her army will soon be reduced from 5,000,000 to 1,000,000. Her representative on the finance committee insisted on talking disarmament.

to the continent.

SENATOR FRANCE of Maryland has informed the statesmen in Genoa that he is pressing in the senate a resolution for representation of the United States in the conference. and asks them to renew their invitation to Washington. It is stated in the capital that the attitude of the administration on his matter has not changed. Among the unofficial American observers in Genoa is Frank Vanderlip, and it is likely his advice will be sought by the committee on

finance. He said in an interview: "The question of the revision of the German reparations is extremely vital to European reconstruction and there fore it is regrettable that the conference refuses to discuss it. In fact, it is doubtful whether the conference will result in much unless the repara tions are discussed. It is necessary to reconstruct Germany as well as the other nations on an economic basis. and surely Germany will remain in a had state unless her reparations mat ters are definitely settled here."

J APAN, while negotiating an agree ment with the Chita government of the Far East-an agreement which is reported to have been already signed-is ruthlessly supporting the Vladivostok government, to the extent of fighting the Chita force's continually. The latter have been driven out of the neutral zone between them and the Vladivostok territory and the Japanese and Vladivostok troops have moved far to the north. The Japanese press is insistent on evacuation Stheria, but the military party refuses,

As for Shantung, the chances that China will ever recover that province from Japan are fading. The Chinese are distracted with their civil, war, and those who know conditions can see no way in which China can raise the price which Japan exacts for the return of the Shantung developments and the Klau-Chau leased territory. This will amount to about \$300,000,

LOYD GEORGE has ready for 000. General Yui, the Japanese millipresentation to the accompany tary commander there, says Japan will remain until China fulfills every pledge made in Washington.

> L EADERS of the Free State and republican factions of the Irish, together with several neutral but influential personages, began a conference in Dublin Thursday which it was hoped would result in the cessation of the hostilities and an agreement on the date of the elections. Arthur Griffith had planned the election for June, but De Valera objects to its being held on the existing register be cause it is out of date. In the British parliament the opposition bitterly at tacked the government because of the Irish situation and the danger of a coup d'etat by De Valera during the Easter recess. Winston Churchill in a brilliant speech defended the government.

THE senate finance committee's version of the revised tariff was reported on Tuesday, bearing the signatures of all of the ten Republican members except Senator La Follette In this measure, as of Wisconsin. compared with the house bill, rates of duty have been shifted and the basis of ad valorem duties has been changed from that of the American value, as proposed by the house, back present foreign valuation This makes the ad valorem basis. rates higher, but the specific duties in many cases have been lowered. Agricultural products and some classes of manufactured goods are given increased rates. Senator McCumber, chairman of the committee, says the creased rates. bill has been written on the basis of both protection and revenue, no rate being so high as to cut off reasonable foreign competition or so low that American manufacturers cannot hold their full share of the American market. He gives assurance that there will be final enactment of tariff legislation before congress adjourns.

THERE is not much to be said concerning the coal miners' strike. President Lewis of the mine workers estimates that during the week 25,000 nonunion men joined the strikers, making a total of 75,000 recruits of that class. In some Ohlo fields strikers in large bodies made demonstrations at mines still operating, and the

owners appealed for protection.

Congressman Huddleston of Alabama introduced a bill giving authority to judges of federal courts on the application of the attorney general to appoint receivers to operate closed

G ROWING flercer daily, the fight between the "little navy" men in the house and those who support the administration's ideas on this matter developed some fireworks last week Party lines are broken, and Mr. Padgett of Tennessee, former chairman of the naval committee, led many of his fellow Democrats to the support of the administration. most effective arguments of the latter in a letter from Secretary Hughes, read by Representative Rogers. He urged that the standard of the naval treaty of Washington be maintained unless the prestige of the United States was to be impaired and its security put in jeopardy. "Jimmy" Gallivan of Massachusetts suggested that the navy be turned over to the prohibition commissioners.

TWO Republican ex-service men, Woodruff of Michigan and Johnson of South Dakota, united in threat ening Attorney General Daugherty with impeachment and in demanding wholesale courts-martial in the War They asked that a select committee of the house investigate the liquidation of war-time cop tracts, charging fraud and corruption in the sale of property at ridiculous ly low prices to favored individuals Secretary of War Weeks issued general denial and invited investiga-

GENERAL SEMENOFF, who calls himself ataman of all the Cossacks, is having his troubles in the United States. Coming to raise funds to renew warfare on soviets, he was arrested in a civil suit resulting from a theft of goods by his forces; and then the government was asked to deport him, and American officers told a senate committee of the outrages committed by his men in Siberia

# BROOKS EXPLAINS **BOOOK SITUATION**

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION MAKES BRIEF STATEMENT.

### REGARDING NEW CONTRACTS

Criticism of Recent Contracts Made on Misinformation on Part of

The fact that an erroneous impres sion still prevails in the minds of many people regarding the recent let ting of contracts for text books from the schools of the state led Dr. E. C. Brooks, state superintendent of public instruction, to make this brief statement:

"The previous contracts having ex pired it was absolutely necessary for the text book commission to make selections and award new contracts The best selections possible were made from among the books examin ed, many old books being retained and many new ones being selected to take the place of books that are now oither out of date or discontinued by the publishers or that were inferior to other books that were offered by the same or other publishers.

"The contracts just expiring had been made in 1917 when prices were ow and if it had been possible to re new all contracts in every detail exto pay prices that are being quoted today on the same books the otal cost to the pupils of the state would have been approximately what will be under the new contracts. For instance, one speller that cost 15 cents under the old contract would have cost 30 cents under the new Therefore the only advantage that would have been derived from retaining all of the old text books would have been through the use of books now in the hands of the pupils, and this matter is taken care of by a provision that the new books shall not be required for two years where the old ones are already available.

'Such criticism as there has been of the text book commission has resulted. I think, from a lack of all in formation regarding the situation that confronted the commission and of the full intent of its action."

Association Elects Officers.

Mrs. Gordon Finger, of Charlotte was elected president, and Mrs. Chas. R. Whitaker, of Hendersonville, vicepresident, at the annual meeting of the board of directors of the North Carolina Tuberculosis association at Sanatorium, Dr. L. B. McBrayer was re-elected managing director. Dr. R. Winston-Salem, was L. Carlton, of named as the association's member on the board of directors of the National Tuberculosis association. The meeting was taken up princi-

pally with the reading of reports on the last year's work, chiefly interesting among which was a compilation showing the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals in the state last Christmas of approximately \$42,600.

Unemployment Decreases.

The United States employment ser vice, reporting industrial conditions in North Carolina for the month of March, announces an increase in tex tile employes of 747, workers in lumber plants, 78, and fertilizer workers

Rogers Nominated for Postmaster. Washington (Special). - The high est three eligibles for postmaster at Oxford with their grades follow:

Franklin W. Hancock, 78. James S Rogers, 73. John M. Fagan, 70. President Harding has sent to the

Rogers.

Senator Glass Invited to Speak. Senator Carter Glass has been indress at the State university. He has the matter under consideration and

will accept, if possible

Station Fight is Postponed. The battle of Winston-Salem. scheduled for fighting Wednesday, April 19, before the state corporation commission, was postponed by agreement until the following Monday, April The point of disagreement

where the new passenger station in

the tobacio city will be located. Records for attendance and for ve nemence of presentation of the case bid fair to be fractured, if not broken outright, in the opinion of Commis sioner Pell, who has recently returned from Winston-Salem.

Highway Engineer Speaks to Students Chapel Hill (Special)-One of the most successful lectures that the university has heard in a long time was delivered by Charles M. Upham, state engineer. The keen interest in high- ment. way construction now under way in North Carolina, on the part of this community gave Mr. Upham's talk a peculiar timeliness, and a large audience gathered to hear him tell not only of North Carolina's road boilding projects but of undertakings of country.

Four Uaks Bong (Stay to Valid.

Validating a \$75,000 bond issue for the Four Oaks School District in Johnson county, the supreme court reaffirmed its ruling that the legislature can ratify and confirm the results of proceedings authorized by it under an act rendered ineffectual by reason of some defect in its passage.

The point was raised in the case of the Board of Education vs. Board of Commissioners, a controversy with out action. On April 12, 1921, a majority of the qualified voters of the township in question authorized a \$75,000 bond issue under Article 89, Chapter 95, Consolidated Statutes Chapter 91, Public Laws Extra Session, 1920, it was conceded, was not passed in accordance with the constitutional requirements. It was conced ed further that Section 5678, Consolidated Statutes, limits the amount of bonds for any township or school district to \$25,000. - But the extra session of 1921 passed an act, valid in all respects, specifically ratifying and confirming the results of the election in question and validating the issuance of bonds up to \$75,000. The only question presented to the court was as to whether or not the bonds in excess of \$15,000 and up to \$75,000 could be validated by a curative act of the 1921 General Assembly.

On this point Justice W. T. Stacy vriting the court's opinion, says: 'Where the legislature has undertaken to pass a law clearly within its power to enact and by reason of ome defect in its passage the statute is rendered ineffectual, we see no reason why the legislature in the absence of any opposite intervening rights could not by subsequent enactment ratify and confirm the results of such proceedings, as in good faith have been taken and had under the prior defective act.'

Mortgage Debt on Owned Homes. Washington, D. C. (Special). - Ac-

ording to a preliminary report that has just been issued by the Department of Commerce, through the Bureau of the Census, the total mortgage debet on owned homes and farms in the state of North Carolina in 1920 was \$57,449,641 and the total of these mortgage homes and farms was \$169, 290,383, the mortgage debt thus representing 33.9 per cent of the total value. Rented homes, tenant farms, and farms that are partly owned and partly rented, it should be noted, are not included in this report. The total number of homes in the

state other than farm homes was 230, 770, of which 90,738, or 39.3 per cent, wee owned by the occupants; and of these owned homes 18,557, or 20.5 per cent, were mortgaged. Information regarding the value of the home and the amount of mortgage debt, was secured from 10,187, or 54.9 per cent, of these mortgaged homes. The average mortgage debt of the home for which mortgage reports were secured was \$1,373 and the average value was \$3,-557; and on the basis of these averages the total mortgage debt on the mortgaged homes not on farms is es timated as \$25,481,356, and the total value of such homes at \$66,008.328. The ratio of mortgage debt to value is 38.6 per cent.

On owned farms the total mortgage debt, as reported in the census of agriculture, was \$31,968,285, while the total value of these mortgaged farms was \$103.282.055, the ratio of debt to value being 31.0 per cent.

Let Contract on State Mess Hall,

Contracts for new construction dou bling the capacity of the dining hall at State college were awarded by the building committee of the board of trustees, the main building going to W. B. Barrow, of Raleigh, for \$58,460. Seven bids were submitted.

The new dining hall will be an exact duplicate of the present building, and the two together will form a huge letter H, with the kitchens forming the cross-piece of the letter. The kitchens will be enlarged. Together the wo dining rooms will have a seating capacity of 1,500. The new section will face on the drive leading past the entrance to Riddick Feld. The -work r 15th Bids will be received for the con-

struction of the new laundry building, enate the nomination of James S. and for guttering and paving the main driveways on the campus on May 30, which will complete the expenditure of the half million dollars appropriat ed by the general assembly for imvited to make the commencement address at the State university. He has son and Thomas W. Cooper were architects on the contract, and will prepare plars for the laundry.

> Paroles Farmer to Make His Crop. Governor Cameron Morrison paroled Thomas Hargis of Person county, serving a six months' term on the roads for violating the prohibition-law. The judge who tried him, the solicitor who prosecuted him and virtually all the county officials recommend pardon.

"The prisoner is a farmer." said Governor Morrison in his statement of reasons, "and has a large family dependent on him. If not given as opportunity to make a crop this year the consequences will be very serious to his family."

Board Sends Out Letter.

The state board of elections has sent out a letter to the chairmen of the county boards of elections, carrying blanks for the notices of appoint

"Your board is required to meet on April 15 to make these apopintments. the letter states, "and if you find we have not sent enough of these forms advise us at once and we will send an additional supply without delay The letter asks that the state board the same kind in other parts of the be immediately informed of the name and address of the county chairman.



### RADIO GREETING TO SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts of America cele brated the twelfth anniversary February 8 to 14 on a nation-wide scale, its entire membership of over 525,000 scouts and scout leaders rededicating themselves to the scout oath and law. Hundreds of rallies, father and son anquets, parades, pageants and other demonstrations were made a part of the observance throughout the country, and the "good turn" was emphasized in a number of practical and impres

The following message from President Harding was broadcasted throughout the country, reaching practically half a million boys. The message was as follows :

sive ways.

'To the Boy Scouts of America: Congratulations to the Boy Scouts of America on their twelfth anniversary, February 8.

"This anniversary of an organization whose ideal is peace and friendship quite strikingly coincides with the birth of a new hope for world peace and friendship at the recent conference of the nations here in Washington. The responsibilities disclosed by that conference must be met by the men who come after us, and I look with growing confidence to that steadily increasing number of boys who are ef fectively trained to 'do their duty to God and their country' and to help other people at all times, as are the Boy Scouts of America and throughout the

"WARREN G. HARDING." Governor Robertson of Oklahoma issued a message to boy scouts, which was signaled by relay by four stations over a distance of more than three miles absolutely without error by scouts of Oklahoma City.

Gov. Pat M. Neff of Texas not only

took the scout oath, but also made a splendid address on "The Meaning of an Obligation."

SCOUTS AT NAVAL ACADEMY

An analysis of the present regiment at Annapolis shows that 915 midshipmen have been boy scouts. Of this number 686 have gone as far as second class and 234 to first class rank. Thirty-three have been scout-Of the first class scouts, 78 have been patrol leaders, 22 Eagle Star scouts, and 7 Life scouts.

In answer to a questionnaire the following facts were developed:

Of the total above mentioned, 466 were of the opinion that their boy scout experience had helped them generally in their present life, while 107 state that this experience has definitely aided them in their academic life. .It is the verdict of 217 scouting had helped them pass their entrance requirements to the academy and of 142 that its training had helped them in adjusting themselves to the discipline and life of the academy.

#### SCOUTS AT BIG CONFERENCE

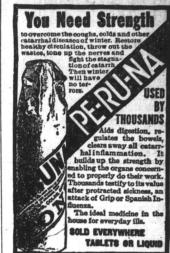
The boy scouts who were given the great honor of being the official pages at the limitation of arms conference acquitted themselves so admirably that they won praise on all sides. Lord Riddel, spokesman for the British delegation who, by the way, is the publisher of the British magazine, The Boy Scout, was particularly interested in these Washington lads and always stopped to talk with them whenever he got a chance. He is a great be liever in scouting and thinks it has a wonderful future, based as it is on friendliness, helpfulness and mutual understanding. "I love our British boys," he says, "but they are no handsomer, no kinder, nor more courteous than my splendid, manly, young friends of the conference at Washington."

#### SCOUT GOOD TURNS FROM OKLA

A few of the many good turns of the year reported by troops of Mc-Alester, Okla., are as follows: Cut down and burned 260 tent caterpillar nests in Latimer county mountains. repaired two miles of mountain trail for farmers in same mountains distributed literature for Red Cross Public Health Service, Ministerial Alliance, etc.; cleaned up nearly a ton of potential puncture causes from the city streets, collected bundles for poor in house-to-house campaign for Chamber of Commerce and Associated Charities, agitated state-wide demand for cleaner motion pictures, helped decorate Masonic temple for meeting of State Women's clubs, donated Christmas baskets for Salvation army distribution among poor.

#### LOOK OUT FOR BIRD FRIENDS

Reading (Pa.) scouts are maintain ing feeding stations for birds through out the country, particularly on Mt. Penn and Neversink mountain. They have set up a number of feed houses which they visit every Saturday or Sunday to see that their feathered friends have a sufficient larder. In sev eral cases it was found that these houses had been tampered with, prob ably by careless or willful persons who do not realize what this provision means to birds during the winter.



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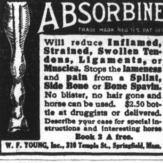
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