



1.—Desperate efforts to save a big levee at Memphis during the Mississippi river valley floods! 2.—Professor Charles E. Fay, dean of Tufts college, Boston, delivering the first lecture in the college's radio lecture course. 3.—Former U. S. Senator S. H. Piles of Seattle, who has been appointed minister to Colombia.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Russians and Germans Almost Break Up the Economic Conference at Genoa.

SIGN TREATY OF THEIR OWN

Allies Bar Germany From Chief Committee but Neutral Protest—Fighting in Ireland Increases—Little Navy Advocates Are Defeated in the House.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

FOR several days last week it was thought the Genoa conference was about to break up in a row, but at this writing it appears possible that the trouble will be fixed up and the discussion of plans for the economic regeneration of Europe will continue.

Germany and Russia precipitated the row, and the former got most of the blame, the soviet delegate, Tchitcherin, being credited with a clever move. Following up the negotiations begun in Berlin, he and Doctor Rathenau got together in Rapallo and signed for their respective governments a treaty that anticipates what might be done by the Genoa conference. The two countries agree to cancel all war debts, all claims for war damages, and all claims for damages due to the soviet's nationalizing German property, providing Russia does not repay other foreign nations for this nationalization.

In the latter case, Germany maintains the right to claim damages. It is agreed that Germany and Russia recognize each other and resume full diplomatic and trade relations, that they treat each other as most favored nations, and that the treaty of Brest-Litovsk is canceled.

Announcement of this pact brought expressions of indignant protest from Lloyd George and Barthou, who were seconded rather weakly by Faeta of Italy, and more earnestly by Theunys of Belgium and Ishih of Japan.

These five statesmen then called in the delegates of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania and Jugo-Slavia and all signed a note to the German delegation telling of their pained surprise at its action, which they said violated the conditions Germany accepted when she entered the conference, and their decision that as a result Germany should not be permitted to take part in any future discussions or decisions relating to Russian affairs.

The Germans took this kick rather calmly, and some of them said they would rather leave Genoa than withdraw the treaty—a choice which Lloyd George offered them Wednesday. But the neutral nations—Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Spain and Switzerland—promptly lined up against the allies and joined Russia in the defiant statement that Germany could not be barred from participation in discussion of Russian affairs except by full vote of the conference. This action was actuated both by resentment against the British premier's attempts to dominate the conference and by the fear that in the private conversations that have been going on in his Genoa villa arrangements would be made with Russia that would prejudice the interests of the smaller powers. The Russians also insisted that Germany must sit in all conferences because there were many questions still at issue between Germany and Russia. On Thursday, however, Lloyd George said the Germans had agreed not to participate in discussions of Russian affairs.

BARTHOU of France held with Lloyd George that the Russo-German pact revealed violations of the treaty of Versailles and that the Germans must be excluded. He was backed up to the limit by his government. Premier Poincare sent to the French ambassadors in the allied countries instructions to insist that energetic measures be taken and penalties applied to Germany if the Rapallo treaty were not abrogated, regardless of what the Genoa conference might decide in the matter. He held that the execution of the treaty

of Versailles must be insisted upon now. Both the British and the French feel that the Russo-German pact, while nominally economic, is in reality political and embodies a distinct threat of a complete alliance of the two countries against the entente. It is believed, too, that it would result in the commercial suffocation of Poland and perhaps of the other small nations that lie between Russia and Germany and along the Baltic, and those of the little entente.

One thing is evident: France's fear that the Genoa conference would get into a muddle, and her absolute distrust of Germany's good faith and good intentions are justified. A writer in the Paris L'Eclair says Germany has sent 12,000 "shock troops" into the Ruhr and is ready for resistance in Silesia, while the soviet armies are threatening the Polish and Rumanian frontiers. He adds: "There is no time to lose if we want to avoid war." The nationalists of Italy are no less alarmed, seeing in the pact preparation for a great alliance between Germany and Russia and probably the entire Islam world and a war in the not distant future between those powers and the allied nations.

PLANS are under way for a financial conference to be called by the European banks to discuss plans for the regulation of currency, in which conference the United States Federal Reserve bank will be asked to take part. Meanwhile, great bankers, including J. Pierpont Morgan, are arranging to meet in Europe to study the question of an international loan to Germany to help in the reconstruction of that country, to improve her exchange and to assist her in paying the reparations. In view of Germany's repeated refusal to pay, the allied reparations commission virtually has turned that problem over to financial experts.

THE long drawn-out peace negotiations at Dalren between Japan and the Far Eastern republic have been broken off, and Japan has decided to send more replacement troops into Siberia. The Chita delegates, according to Tokyo official statements, after gaining some of their points, made what the Japanese considered impossible demands concerning protection of lives and property of foreign residents, and the open door, and threatened to quit the conference if these were not conceded. Tokyo thereupon instructed its delegates to withdraw.

STILL another peace conference—that between the leaders of the Irish factions—does not seem to be accomplishing much, for the fighting in Ireland goes on with increasing bitterness. De Valera's Easter coup did not eventuate, but one of his adherents attempted that day to assassinate Michael Collins, head of the provisional government, and there were bloody clashes between the republican and Free State forces, which were continued all through the week. In Dublin the "rebels" occupied the Four Courts and other buildings and engaged in battles with the Collins troops; and in Belfast the Catholics and Protestants killed and burned and looted to their hearts' content.

STIRRED by President Harding's dismissal of employees of the bureau of engraving and printing and other bureaus, and by rumors of plans to restrict the operation of the merit law generally, the National Civil Service Reform league called a conference of all interested organizations and individuals to meet in Washington April 27. That engraving bureau affair is causing the administration a lot of trouble and the end is not yet. In attempting to explain the President's action the official organ of the Plate Printers' union asserted the country was flooded with millions of counterfeit federal reserve notes and other treasury issues. This was flatly denied by Secretary Mellon.

CHAIRMAN PAT KELLEY of Michigan and his cohort of "little navy" men went down to defeat in the house of representatives last week, and if the senate does as it is expected to do the United States will be able to maintain a navy of respectable proportions. In committee of the whole the house by a vote of 177 to 130 adopted the amendment to the committee bill which provided for an

enlisted personnel of \$6,000 instead of 67,000 men. A few days later this was confirmed by a record vote of 221 to 148, and then the bill was passed and handed on to the senate. Ninety Republicans voted against the personnel increase and 48 Democrats supported it. The measure carries a total appropriation of \$251,239,000, which is \$18,000,000 more than was fixed by the appropriations committee. Further increases are expected in the senate.

THE fight of those who believe in adequate national defense is now centered on the army bill. In this the American Legion is taking active part, National Commander MacNider appearing before the senate appropriations committee to denounce the house bill which provides for only 115,000 enlisted men. He said: "The American Legion unqualifiedly backs up the President, the secretary of war, and General Pershing in their support of necessary appropriations for the National Guard, organized reserves, reserve officers' training corps, and civilian military training camps as recommended by the War department, and also supports the position that approximately 150,000 men is the minimum number needed for the regular establishment to perform its proper mission in our plan of national defense."

SOMETIME during the present session the senate will pass soldier bonus legislation. So much was determined by the Republican senators in caucus by a 3 to 1 vote, and they asked the finance committee to report a bill "within a reasonable time." But they reached no decision as to the form the bill will take. The right of the senate to add any revenue provisions to the bill passed by the house is questioned, since the Constitution requires that revenue measures must originate in the house. Republican leaders of both senate and house are again discussing the plan of financing the bonus by the sale of British bonds, and it is understood that if these are found available through the work of the foreign debt commission, President Harding will not object to that method of raising the funds. With this in view efforts are being made to postpone senate consideration of the bonus measure until after the tariff bill has been passed, by which time it is expected the work of the commission will be far enough advanced to give assurance that the long-term British securities will be available.

FLOODS and tornadoes have been playing havoc in the Middle West. Through much of the Mississippi river valley the rivers and streams have broken their levees and overflowed their banks, doing vast damage in many towns and inundating millions of acres of land. Unseasonably cold weather added to the distress of the people who were driven from their homes. The windstorms were most severe in southern Illinois and southern Indiana. Several towns were badly wrecked and about fifty lives were lost.

THE two Portuguese aviators who started from Lisbon to fly across the Atlantic to Brazil in several "jumps" got as far as St. Paul's rock, about a thousand miles from the Cape Verde islands, but smashed their plane in making the difficult landing there. A new plane will be sent to them by the Portuguese government to enable them to complete their journey.

WOMEN from all parts of the Western Hemisphere assembled in Baltimore, Md., at the call of the National League of Women Voters to confer on such subjects as education, child welfare, women in industry, prevention of the traffic in women, civil and political status of women and international friendliness. It is hoped the conference will lead to close cooperation among the women of the entire world.

REPRESENTATIVE BLAND of Indiana has drafted a bill which authorizes the President to appoint a "coal investigation agency," composed of the director of the geological survey, director of the bureau of mines, director of the census and commissioner of labor statistics and six others to be confirmed by the senate. It would be given sweeping powers to obtain information.

MARCH FIRE LOSS SHOWS DECREASE

TOTAL IS \$476,452 IN STATE COMPARED WITH \$718,155 SAME MONTH OF 1921.

DAILY FIRE LOSS \$15,882

More Than Half the Entire Loss For March Resulted From One Fire, a Tobacco Warehouse.

Raleigh. According to the official reports of fires made to Insurance Commissioner Wade, the North Carolina fire loss for March amounted to \$476,452 as compared with \$718,155 for March, 1921. On the other hand, the fire loss of the United States and Canada for March was \$39,910,750, it being an increase, states the Commissioner, of nearly 40 per cent over March 1921. North Carolina also makes a good comparative showing with the country at large for the first quarter of the year, the aggregate for January, February and March being \$1,504,097 as against \$1,757,155 for the same period of 1921, whereas the United States and Canada fire loss is \$107,878,050 as against \$89,789,900 for the first quarter of 1921.

There were 166 damage fires during March, against 132 in February; of these 15 fires at 14 points occasioned a loss of \$5,000 and over, totalling \$335,000, leaving for the other 151 fires \$141,452 or an average of less than \$1,000 each against an average loss for this group of \$535 in February and \$1,456 in January.

The average loss of the 15 fires in the \$5,000 group was \$22,500 against \$28,960 in February and \$36,363 in January. The average daily fire loss was \$15,882 for March, \$11,829 for February and \$35,000 for January.

More than half of the entire loss for March resulted from only one fire, a tobacco warehouse and stored cotton at Goldsboro, with \$241,500 loss.

Three Million For Education.

The state of North Carolina will spend this year for educational purposes the sum of \$3,267,200, not including any money raised by the counties of the state for school purposes nor any bond money. The sum of \$3,267,200, as well as a further sum of \$345,000 which is appropriated to such institutions as the Caswell Training school, the Stonewall Jackson Training school and others not 100 per cent educational in their nature, making a grand total of \$3,612,200, comes from the general state fund secured through state levies upon incomes, corporations, railroads, etc.

Practically every other state in the union levies a state-wide ad valorem tax for schools, and there are very few states where the state rate is less than 75 cents on the \$100 worth of property; and this is in addition to the local county taxes which run the total assessment for school purposes up to \$1.25 to \$1.50 per \$100 valuation.

Included in the total of \$3,612,200 is not only the cost of administration for the state department of education and all appropriations for training extension work, the medical examination of children and the support of all state institutions, but also \$832,250 which goes to supplement the county funds of 37 counties of the state in order to assure a six-months term for every school in every county.

Each county before participating in the equalization fund is required, under an act of the recent legislature, to levy a county tax of not less than 39 cents. If the tax thus levied is not sufficient to provide a six months term for each school, then the deficiency is made up by the state board of education.

It is interesting in this connection to note that, according to figures secured from the commissioner of internal revenue, there are seven counties in the state whose levy for school purposes is 30 cents or under. There were 24 counties whose levy was 39 cents or less. Nine counties have a rate of 60 cents or more and 27 counties have a rate of 50 cents or more.

Investigation of Coal Fields.

The North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey has recently obtained, through co-operation with the United States Bureau of Mines, the services of Mr. J. J. Farber, coal mining engineer of the bureau, to make a study of the methods of mining and preparation for market of the coal of the Deep River coal basin of Lee, Moore and Chatham counties; also to study the gases and dust in the mines in order to recommend methods which will reduce to a minimum the hazards of coal mining.

Maxwell to Sit on Case With I. C. C.

Commissioner A. J. Maxwell, of the state corporation commission, has been named on a committee of five to sit with the Interstate corporation commission in the hearing of I. C. C. docket 13,494, which involves regional rates for the southeast. Other members of the committee are Commissioner Perry, of Georgia; Commissioner Burr, of Florida; Commissioner Paterson, of Alabama; and Commissioner Forward, of Virginia. Hearings in the case will be held at Asheville, New Orleans, Chicago and New York.

To Build New Passenger Stations. Five years of more or less patient waiting brought their reward when the corporation commission ordered the immediate construction of union passenger stations at Kinston, Selma and Newton, and called for plans for a similar structure to be erected by the Atlantic Coast Line, and the Norfolk Southern at Plymouth.

Peittons were filed by Kinston, Selma and Newton in 1917 and the commission was about to order the stations built in all three towns when the war intervened. Since then the financial condition of the roads has not, in the opinion of the commission, justified an order for new construction.

The time has not yet returned when the carriers can reasonably be expected to enter upon a policy of large expenditures for depot construction, the commission declares, but conditions at the towns involved in the order demand that adequate facilities be built without delay. Plans for the three ordered have been on file for years. Construction is ordered to be completed within the next six months. Kinston is the outstanding petitioner represented in the order. The railroads bought land five years ago and were about to let the contract for a station costing about \$50,000 when the war intervened. The plans have been hanging fire, and delegations of Kinston citizens have been coming to Raleigh to prod the commission since the armistice was signed.

Selma's new station will cost \$29,000, according to the plans on file with the commission. Several weeks ago a delegation was heard, protesting against allowing the carriers to improve the present station on the grounds that when that was done they would set up the claim that no new accommodation was needed. Selma does more junction business than any town of its size in the state.

At Newton the Southern and the Carolina & Northwestern railroad are directed to build a union station in accordance with the plans now on file with the commission, the work to be completed within six months from the date of the order. The work there will involve an expenditure about equal to that ordered at Selma.

School Bond Issue Held Valid.

By unanimous decision, the North Carolina supreme court upheld the validity of the five million dollar state bond issue constituting a school building loan fund available to the counties of the state. The opinion in the case was written by Associate Justice W. A. Hoke.

"It would present indeed an incongruous and most deplorable condition," reads the opinion, "if the general assembly, having thus provided for a compulsory attendance on the public schools were not allowed to make provisions also for adequate and suitable housing purposes. And we are of the opinion that the proposed bond issue with the requirement that the loans made to the counties be repaid to the state is throughout a constitutional enactment and in the reasonable exercise of the powers conferred on the authorities to enable them to properly maintain the public schools of the state."

The supreme court action was the final ruling in the case of B. R. Lacy, State Treasurer, vs. the Fidelity Bank of Durham, a controversy without action determined before Judge W. A. Devin in Wake county in March when he held that the bond issue which the defendant bank had contracted to purchase, was valid and constitutional in all respects.

Dr. C. E. Brooks, superintendent of public instruction, was delighted with the court's opinion. "I didn't see how the court could do otherwise," he said, "but it is a relief to know that the court has upheld our school policy so completely. It is the most important decision in years, from a school standpoint."

Already applications have been received from counties for the entire five million dollars to be repaid in twenty equal installments covering a period of twenty years. Loans of one million dollars have already been anticipated under the act of the loan fund.

The bond issue was authorized by the general assembly in chapter 147, Laws of 1921, and provided a fund whereby the counties might be enabled by state advances to acquire sites to provide buildings, equipment and repairs necessary to maintain a six months' school.

Wants Prison Farm Land.

The state board and the North Carolina agricultural secretary were unable to agree on a proposition for the purchase by the agricultural society of 200 acres of prison farm land adjoining the state fair grounds. The society wanted the land as an extension for the fair grounds, but a price could not be agreed upon. The board held its regular monthly meeting in Supt. George Ross Poul's office at the prison.

New Charters Issued.

Charters were issued to the following new concerns: New Bern Candy company, New Bern, authorized capital \$25,000 and \$5,000 subscribed by P. S. and Pearl Sadler and O. W. Lane, of New Bern. The Woman's Shop, Wilson, authorized capital \$25,000 and \$3,000 subscribed by S. Stewart, L. Dew and S. P. Clark. The High Point Mattress company, High Point, authorized capital \$25,000 and \$7,500 subscribed by S. A. Holmes and others.

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SANITARY walls are essential. Germ laden walls may be the cause of much illness. Why take a risk when it is so easy to have Alabastined walls—beautiful, artistic and absolutely sanitary.



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Interpreter of Nature. The inhabitants of a frog pond close at hand, says the Youngstown Telegram, awakened two little girls who were spending their first night in the country. First came the high, piping voice of a little "peeper." "What's that?" asked Winnie. "I think it's a bird," Susan ventured to reply. Just then a basso-profundo frog sang one of his lowest notes. "What's that?" Winnie asked in a startled whisper. "I'm not sure," replied Susan, "but I think it is either a cow or an automobile."

Or Who's Who. The man whose answer to the Edison questionnaire was graded "A" must certainly know watts watt—Life.

Ignorant. Husband—Did you ever notice, my dear, that a loud talker is generally an ignorant person? Wife—Well, you needn't shout so. I'm not deaf.

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A Word for Himself. Betty—"Jack won't take no for an answer. What shall I do?" Tom—"Say 'yes' to some other fellow."

Be careful today—tomorrow may be too late.

She Discovered It, Too. "After 10 years of hit or miss baking with various other brands of powder I at last discovered that the bitter taste sometimes found in hot breads was caused from alum in cheaper grades of powder. So I am now an ardent booster for Royal Baking Powder." Mrs. L. A. J.

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