

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## DOINGS OF THE WEEK

### NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

#### Nicaragua Asks Uncle Sam to Check Mexico's Aid to Rebels There.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

MORE trouble with Mexico confronts the government of the United States, due to the admitted fact that the "Liberal" revolutionists of Nicaragua are receiving aid, in the way of men and war munitions, from Mexico. Adolfo Diaz, favored by Washington for the presidency of Nicaragua, was elected by the congress immediately after the peace conference presided over by Charge d'Affaires Lawrence Dennis which resulted in an agreement to return to constitutional government. Diaz was formally recognized by our government Wednesday, and at once he appealed to Washington for aid in stopping the gun-running expeditions from Mexico.

In announcing the recognition of Diaz, Secretary of State Kellogg took occasion to refer in veiled but unmistakable terms to the Mexican government's fomentation of armed conflict in the Central American republic.

"The department," said Secretary Kellogg, "has been informed that President Diaz intends to make overtures of peace and general amnesty to his political opponents, and that he will offer the Liberal party participation in the new government, including certain cabinet posts. I sincerely hope that this offer, if made, will be accepted by the Liberals, since only by co-operation between all factions can peace and tranquillity be restored to that country, now so unhappily torn by revolution, a condition which has invited interference from outside sources; a state of affairs which must cause concern to every friend of stability in Central America."

General Moncada, rebel leader, was called on board the U. S. S. Rochester at Bluefields and given a dispatch from Washington, asking him to lay down his arms with the understanding that there would be a general amnesty. Otherwise, he was told, the United States would be obliged to take action to prevent further fighting.

The Calles regime in Mexico, which is called Bolshevist by its opponents, has been extending its influence over Central America, at least in Guatemala, and is reaching out for Nicaragua. It would not be pleasant for the United States to have such a "bloc" of nations controlled by the Calles group between it and the Panama canal.

In addition to his war on the Yaquis, which is going none too well for him, President Calles may have to meet a revolutionary movement in Chihuahua and along the northern border. Though Mexican officials scoff at this, the rumors persist that it is under way and is serious. Gen. Nicholas Fernandez, former member of the staff of Gen. Pancho Villa, is reported to have led a small band of rebels across the border east of El Paso for the purpose of recruiting a force of revolutionists. It was said the party was well mounted and armed and had plenty of money. A former follower of Adolfo de la Huerta was in El Paso recently recruiting men for a revolt.

COL. ORESTES FERRARA, a prominent politician and well-known duelist, has been appointed minister to Washington from Cuba, to succeed Dr. Rafael Sanchez Aball, who resigned. Cuba had a brief quarrel with Uruguay during the week and its minister in Montevideo obtained his passport and left the capital. However, the trouble was soon adjusted and diplomatic relations were resumed.

After being in power for a year, the Chilean cabinet headed by Maximiliano Ibanez has resigned. At this writing President Figueroa-Larrain has not appointed a new premier.

RUMOR mongers in Europe continue to prophesy another war in the near future, but they are not agreed as to whether it will be between Italy and Turkey or Italy and France. Most of them are in accord as to Italy being one of the belligerent

nations, because as every one knows, she is overpopulated and is looking for additional territory within easy reach of the mother country—some where along the Mediterranean. She believes Tunis should belong to her instead of France, for there are some three million Italians there; but wise observers do not believe Mussolini has any intention of fighting France. There remains the territory in Asia Minor which Italy would like to possess and which now is held nominally by Turkey. If Mussolini obtains any of this, it is more likely to come through the aid of the League of Nations. There is ground for the belief that France would be glad to transfer her Syrian mandate to Italy.

Revelations following the arrest of Ricciotti Garibaldi in Paris have been rather startling and France might well find in them cause of serious quarrel with Mussolini's government, but in view of the duce's disclaimers and apologies for the acts of the more unrestrained Fascist it is probable that France will take the view that these acts were unauthorized. On the other hand, London dispatches say the Italian volunteer officers in England have been officially notified that their services may be needed and to hold themselves ready to return to Italy at a moment's notice.

GEORGES TCHITCHERIN, soviet commissar of foreign affairs, and Tewfik Rashedi Bey, foreign minister of Turkey, held an important conference in Odessa, presumably to formulate an alliance. This led many European statesmen to believe that a league of western Asiatic nations, including Russia, comparable to the League of Nations, might be intended. At a banquet following the conference Tchitcherain said the crushing force of "imperialist" nations had pressed Russia and Turkey into an international mutuality.

WHILE the British Imperial conference in London is at this writing about over, there has been no official statement of its conclusions. Officially, it is asserted that the premiers of the dominions have refused to ratify the Locarno pact, which was drafted so as to exclude the dominions unless they expressed their participation; that the dominions have shown a decided disposition not to help maintain the naval forces of the empire and especially not to pay any part of the expense of building the huge naval base at Singapore, contracts for which are now being let; that the matter of privy council appeals will be left open for a future conference; and that there was complete agreement on the continuance of British control of Egypt.

ANOTHER group of Chicagoans, numbering 74, have been indicted for conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws, in the government's clean-up campaign in that city. Among the accused are Municipal Judge H. M. Walker and Police Captain John Prendergast, secretary to the chief of police. The rest are politicians, policemen and saloonkeepers. The federal officials have now had 153 residents of Cook county indicted, and another list, including more prominent men, is expected before long.

In announcing the return of the indictments, District Attorney Olson said: "Dishonest police officials working hand in glove with the political representatives of the criminal underworld, aided and abetted by many who hold high positions of public trust and at times even the scales of justice in their hands—that's Chicago's crime ring and crime cause; and if that criminal alliance can keep its present stronghold by the exercise of intimidation and personal violence toward those who know the facts, then justice is dead and the courts may as well close their doors."

Mayor Dever and other city officials retorted that Olson's language was "unwarranted and unfair" and the mayor said in effect that the federal grand jury's action was a cheap rehash of a clean-up made six months ago by the city administration itself.

COMMUNISTS in the island of Java have revolted against the Dutch government of the colony and several bloody battles have been fought. The Dutch seemed to have the better of the encounters and it was believed the rebellion would soon be quelled and reported by engineers of the federal bureau of mines, data will be obtainable on matters of transportation, power, both hydroelectric and coal, labor costs and all other items having a bearing on the subject considered.

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modations on the Berengaria sailing from New York on November 24. King Ferdinand is suffering from sigmoiditis, but Premier Averescu told parliament that his condition caused no anxiety.

MAJ. MARIO DE BERNARDI, the "flying Fascist" who captured the Schneider cup for Italy in the seaplane races at Norfolk, setting new speed records, made yet another world record over the three-kilometer course, which he covered at an average speed of 258.873 miles an hour. He and his team mates then went to Washington, where they received the personal congratulations of President Coolidge. Bernardi flew a little Macchi-Fiat monoplane and after it is returned to Italy and wheels are substituted for pontoons, he will go after the fastest of all speed records which was established by Bonnet of France at 278.48 miles an hour.

UNCLE JOE CANNON, who passed away in his home in Danville, Ill., lies at rest under a red haw tree in Spring Hill cemetery at that place. For several days his body lay in state while the neighbors and fellowtowns-men who had long known and loved him passed the bier with tears in their eyes. Then Vice President Dawes and scores of other well-known Illinoisans, together with many from other states, gathered there for the simple funeral ceremony. The procession to the church and from there to the tomb was led by Knights Templar, American Legion members and boy scouts.

Another well-known American passed away with the death of Lafayette Young, former senator from Iowa and for many years the editor and publisher of the Des Moines Capital. He was seventy-eight years of age and one of the few remaining members of the old school of American journalism. Chicago was shocked and grieved by the death of Patrick J. Carr, treasurer and sheriff-elect of Cook county. He was a self-made man, had risen high in the councils of the local Democratic party and was remarkably popular with all the people of the city. George Sterling, poet and dramatist of San Francisco, committed suicide in the Bohemian club by drinking poison. Allen Upward, well-known author and lawyer of London, also took his own life.

CONGRESSMAN DEMPSEY of Lockport, N. Y., chairman of the house harbors and rivers committee, offered to the Great Lakes Harbor association, in session in Buffalo, a solution of the lakes level problem in the form of passage of a bill in congress providing regulating works which would restore all the levels of the lakes, compensating not only the slight Chicago diversion but all other causes. The delegates, nearly all determined foes of Chicago in the controversy, immediately laid plans for the defeat of the bill mentioned by Mr. Dempsey. Of the nearly forty inches of lowering of levels, Chicago's diversion through the sanitary canal is only 5 1/2 inches and can never be more, according to government engineers.

IT IS believed at this time that the British miners have voted against the acceptance of the government's terms for settlement of the coal strike. The adverse vote was heavy in Scotland and South Wales, and miners who had returned to work were not permitted to vote by the local miners' councils. Return of men to the pits goes on steadily, which fact may influence the final decision of the miners' federation.

FUGITIVE from justice for more than three years, "King" Benjamin Purnell, leader of the House of David at Benton Harbor, Mich., was arrested last week by the state police. During all the time when he was being sought throughout the country he had been hidden in the administration building of the peculiar colony. There are against him various charges of attacks on young girl members of the colony, and he is also named in receivership suits against the House of David.

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### JIM AND HIS DECISION

By H. M. EGBERT

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JIM BENNETT sat on the sand of Tan-tan island and looked out across the sea, as he had done each day for more than a year. Everybody in Tan-tan knew Jim Bennett, and the raggedest beachcomber sneered when his name was mentioned. It was not so much the depths to which he had fallen as the fact that he had fallen so far.

Three years ago he had left San Francisco to make his fortune in the South seas and had come back to marry Elsie Dale. But her father was many times a millionaire, and had other ideas for Elsie's future. Everything depended, then, on Jim's making good on the copra trading trip, in which he had sunk his little capital.

At least, so far as marrying Elsie was concerned. Her father would never consent. Jim knew Jack Dale too well to hope for that. But if the trip succeeded Jim could afford to bear the old man's enmity, and Elsie had said she would.

The ship was wrecked on an uncharted reef off Tan-tan. Jim saw his little capital lost. He had barely the fare home. Despair took hold of him, then the lethargy of the life in the little place. He had sunk down and down. He had at last written to Elsie releasing her—and had forgotten.

He had quite forgotten by the time Elsie's letter arrived. She had told him that she was going to wait three years. If at the end of that time he did not claim her, she would feel free. But she loved him; let him remember that every day of his life.

At the end of the first year Jim remembered it occasionally. He was employed in one of the island resorts. At the end of the second year he had a hazy recollection. Then he was doing odd jobs along the wharf. At the end of the third year, when he was nothing but a beachcomber, he remembered again, this time more clearly.

He remembered it when the monthly vessel arrived. He expected that it would carry a letter for him. No letter had been at the post office; and yet, when Jim looked up and saw a young, athletic American, neatly dressed, with sun helmet and blue glasses, approaching him, he was sure that he had come upon business concerning Elsie.

Jim looked up lazily from among the little group of fellow loafers, and wondered how any man could find the energy to walk at that gait in such a sun. The young man drew up to the group and stopped.

"Any of you men know a fellow named Jim Bennett?" he inquired.

The man nearest Jim nudged him lazily; the rest did not even shift their eyes from the far horizon.

"I'm Jim Bennett," said Jim, rising. He saw the astonishment upon the young man's face.

"Will you please come over here?" asked the stranger.

He led him about fifty yards away, out of the hearing of the others. He might have saved himself the trouble, for those who were not asleep in the shade had already forgotten Jim's existence. When they stood together upon the sand the young man took Jim by the shoulders and swung him round, facing him.

"Are you Jim Bennett or are you lying?" he demanded, in crisp, nervous accents.

For an instant Jim felt the resentment that would have come to any normal man at such treatment; but then he remembered that he had left his manhood behind him at Tan-tan town.

"I'm Jim Bennett," he answered doggedly. "What do you want with me?"

The other breathed hard. "Where do you come from?" he demanded. "I must have proofs of what you say. Who is the woman to whom you are engaged?"

"You mean Miss Dale, I suppose," drawled Jim, and the other, let his hands drop from his shoulders and stared at him hopelessly.

"Are you—crazy or sunstruck?" he inquired presently.

"Usually both," answered Jim truthfully. "Today, as it happens, I haven't found anyone willing to give me the price. How about you?"

marry her, once she gets you at her side. Understand?"

Jim understood. The thought of the Dale millions at his command was paralyzing; it galvanized him into life. He looked up, to see the young man reading his face.

"Here's ten dollars!" he said suddenly. "No—wait!" He pulled out the pocketbook again. "Here's a hundred. Do you think you can get washed and cleaned and have a new suit and good linen on your back, ready to sail on the ship tomorrow?"

Jim pocketed the money mechanically. "I suppose so," he muttered. "What's your hurry?"

"Because," said the other gravely, "Miss Dale is on board. That's why. And the best man in the world couldn't deserve your luck."

Somehow the new clothes, the luxury of a bath, had put new manhood into Jim. He lay in bed early in the morning in the hotel and speculated what he would do with the Dale millions. He would go to San Francisco, of course. He would build a palace there. He would have automobiles, fine clothes, cigars, all the physical luxuries which he had been denied so long. And—he would marry Elsie at the first opportunity, to keep his hold on her.

He got up and dressed. He was just about to leave the room when the young man entered. He surveyed Jim with a grim smile that before.

"You haven't shaved off your beard," he said.

"No," said Jim thoughtfully. "It looks—more manly, I think."

The other looked at him in contempt. It penetrated the man's skin. Jim winced. It was the first moment of self-realization in many a year.

"Why have you done all this for me?" he asked, looking at the other curiously. "Do you know, I believe—I believe you are in love with Elsie yourself."

"Miss Dale from you, please," replied the other. "Yes, I am in love with her, if you wish to know it. And if I hadn't found you I think she would have married me."

"Then why did you find me?" muttered Jim.

The other choked down an expletive. "If you're ready," he said coldly, "we'll start right away."

Jim went out with him. And now, surveyed by the curious inhabitants of the little settlement, the target of their sneering glances, Jim felt suddenly more ashamed than he had ever felt before in all his life. And for the first time he really understood the depths of his degradation.

He had been a worthless beachcomber, while she had waited for him, believed in him. He was utterly worthless. He could not degrade that pure life to the level of his own. He had thought of nothing but the Dale millions, nothing at all of the love that had been true to him.

Unconsciously he held his head higher and flung back the scornful gestures, the looks, the thinly-veiled jeers. They should learn some day that there was that spark of manhood in him which would kindle the old fires!

He knew that his past was utterly dead. And so, walking at the side of his companion, he boarded the boat.

There was a delay, a brief delay. The young man turned to him and said:

"Remember, Bennett, my lips are sealed forever. You have your own future and hers to make or mar. I know her love for you, and that is why I shall remain silent. Can you honor it? Promise me that from this day forward you will strive with might and main to be worthy of her."

"I promise," answered Jim humbly, and the man at his side looked at him strangely. This seemed to be a new man—he had known nothing of him.

Along the deck came a white-robed figure, tripping gladly. Jim knew her at once. All his heart went out to her. Elsie had not changed a bit during those three years, except that there was more of the woman in her poise, her thoughtful eyes, and just as much of the happy girl in her smiling face.

"John!" she exclaimed. "Where—where is Jim, then? And who is this gentleman?"

Suddenly Jim realized that she had not recognized him. His tan, his beard, the ineffaceable marks of those three years on his face.

Three turned a little away. "Jim died last week," he said quietly. "We didn't dare to break the news to you at once. He died—I was his friend—he wanted me to tell you."

He turned and walked with steady steps to the ship's gangway, and along the wharf.

#### Not Always Best Plan

Compromise is but the sacrifice of one right or good in the hope of retaining another—too often ending in the loss of both.—Edwards.

#### Day of Opportunity

In this, day, opportunity not only knocks at your door but is playing an avil chorus on every man's door, and then lays for the owner around the corner with a club.—Elbert Hubbard.

## Angola's Prospects



Musical Instruments of Angola.

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

THE latest rumor concerning the solution of Italy's great problem, the finding of an outlet for her too crowded and rapidly increasing population, alleges that negotiations have been under way for the purchase by Italy of Angola, Portugal's vast territory on the Atlantic coast of Africa.

Angola covers a large part of southwestern Africa. It stretches along the Atlantic ocean for a thousand miles and extends 900 miles or more inland. A comparable slice of territory in southeastern United States would have a coast line extending from southern Georgia to New York city and, excepting Florida, would include an area greater than all the states south of New York and the Great Lakes, and east of the Mississippi river.

This vast region, although it was discovered by Portuguese sailors in 1442 and although it has had Portuguese settlements since 1575, has not been developed to any great extent. It was really a victim of the discovery of Brazil and the opening of the water route to India, for into those more promising regions was poured all the colonizing energy of Portugal at a time when that country was the world's leader in colonization. The stream of energy and men passed Angola by, and it has been a sort of Portuguese backwater ever since.

#### Its Coast Is Dreary.

But there are also potent geographic and economic reasons for Angola's lack of development. With the exception of former German southwest Africa, which adjoins it to the south, Angola has the dreariest and most forbidding coast of any section of Africa. Superficially it may be compared with the desert coast of northern Chile and Peru; and the comparison is heightened by the existence of a cool current that sweeps up the coast from the Antarctic as the Humboldt current flows northward along the west coast of South America.

Behind this worst foot which Angola thrusts forward is a region of surprisingly good potentialities. The coastal desert strip extends inland from 12 to 120 miles and then the country rises by a series of huge terraces to a broad plateau which extends eastward into the heart of Africa. On each higher terrace conditions are better than on that below. The transition is from aridity and lack of vegetation through semi-aridity to a reasonably well-watered park land of grass and scattered trees. Much of this plateau is an excellent region for Europeans, healthy, cool, reasonably productive and much of it free from the tsetse fly.

The grains flourish in the Angola plateau country, but they are grown by only a few natives and fewer Europeans. There are enthusiasts for this country, however, who insist that it is only a matter of time and the influx of more energetic farmers, until this vast upland region shall become another Argentina. It is pointed out, too, that the country is in much easier and less expensive reach of European consuming centers than New Zealand, Australia, or South America, and that it would have a marked advantage also in the production of cattle and the shipment of meat.

#### Portugal Has Improved It.

Since the World War Portugal seems to have taken an increasing interest in Angola. There were long ugly rumors of a continuance of slavery in the colony in spite of international agreements for its suppression.

The sparseness of the population and the laziness of the natives made it difficult for Portuguese plantation owners to operate, and in many cases they took matters into their own hands and forcibly put laborers to work. Government regulations against such practices were ignored. In recent years these conditions seem to have been greatly improved and a more forceful government established. The government, too, has made available large funds for physical development of the colony. In addition to fostering railway building, the government has itself constructed some excellent motor roads in the plateau country.

The big factor in appealing to Italy, if she were considering such a purchase, undoubtedly would be the sparse population. Less than 4,000,000 inhabitants dwell in the 485,000 square miles of Angola. It is estimated, while Italy, with only 118,000 square miles, has a population of about 40,000,000. In other words, although Angola is four times as big as Italy, it has only a tenth of the actual population, or one-fortieth the density of population. Perhaps one-half of the area of Angola at least is suitable for colonization by Europeans. It is obvious, therefore, that it would form an admirable outlet for Italy's surplus people.

In the southern portion of Angola's plateau is a sort of little Transvaal. Displeased with alien control from which ordinary treks did not seem to free them, a group of Boers took the wretched journey across the great Kalahari desert and settled in this remote region. Many perished on the road, but those who won through have established solid communities by which the Portuguese officials have granted them the liberty and self-government in their communities which they so much desire. In their settlements, surrounded by houses of typical Transvaal architecture, and with the great heavy wagons in use, one might imagine himself a thousand miles away in the vicinity of Johannesburg or Pretoria.

Good Harbor at Lobito.

At several points railways extend from the coast of Angola to the almost temperate zone plateau. The most important railway starts from the middle of the long coast and extends some 300 miles into the interior. It will eventually extend eastward across Angola and into the Belgian Congo to connect with existing Belgian and South African systems and with lines to the east coast of Africa. The Angolan port terminus of this railroad is Lobito, with a fine harbor. Lobito is an upstart among the ancient coastal cities, Benguela and Loanda and the middle-aged town of Mossamedes, having been born on a bare sand-splut only a few years ago.

The excellence of Lobito bay's harbor is hidden as one steams toward it. The steamer seems headed for barren cliffs with a narrow, sandy beach at their base. As a matter of fact, however, it turns out when one approaches closer, that the beach is a narrow spit of sand a mile or more off shore. This sand-splut walls off the sea, and behind it lies one of the best harbors in Africa. It is three miles long and a mile wide, sufficiently commodious to hold easily ships to handle the sea traffic of an empire. The harbor seems protected in all winds and there is little tide.

Loanda, capital of Angola, also has lines of steel extending into the interior, and from Mossamedes a "toy railway," with narrow-gauge track and tiny cars, runs across the desert strip and into the hills.

#### Plan to Make Public Resources of Alaska

Following the example of privately owned pioneer railway systems in exploiting the resources of the territory contiguous to their lines, Uncle Sam, owner of the Alaskan railroad, will tell the people of the states the advantages of the railroad belt in order to attract capital.

A new department was created by N. W. Smith, general manager of the railroad, to bring the resources of

central Alaska right under the nose of the man with surplus to invest. Hitherto the resources along the railroad have been spoken of in generalities, such as "great storehouses of wealth," "mountains of coal" and "many square miles of precious metals and commercial minerals."

Hereafter the Alaska railroad's industrial department will offer economic data calculated to guide the investor into proper and remunerative channels.

Mineral deposits will be surveyed