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WHAT'S GOING ON

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

No Tax Legislation This Session—Smith Named Illinois Senator.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WITH the prospect of a surplus in the government treasury of about \$500,000,000 on July 1, 1927, the Democrats in congress are loudly demanding that a general tax reduction bill be passed at this session. But the majority members of the all-powerful ways and means committee of the house will not agree even to President Coolidge's suggestion that there be a temporary reduction in the income tax payable next year. It has definitely decided that no tax legislation whatever shall be introduced during the short session, adopting what it called the alternative plan of the President, that the surplus should be applied toward reduction of the public debt. This latter plan for disposal of the huge sum of money, the Republican leaders hold, will inure to the benefit of all taxpayers, whereas, as Senator Smoot asserted, the flat percentage cut in income taxes would mainly benefit only a few large corporations. Under the plan of the Republicans the debt reduction during the fiscal year 1927 will reach the huge total of approximately \$1,070,000,000, which, with the single exception of the year following the close of the war, will be the greatest amount of debt retirement accomplished in any similar period thus far.

Senators Swanson, Harrison, Copeland and King all arose in the senate Wednesday to protest against the decision of the Republicans. Swanson said tax legislation was being sidetracked with the deliberate view of reducing taxes next year shortly in advance of the Presidential election. Copeland said the administration was guilty of "legalized larceny" in collecting upward of \$500,000,000 more money in taxes than needed, without providing some method of refunding the surplus to the taxpayers. Senator Harrison demanded that the Democrats and Republicans forget partisan differences long enough to enact a bill reducing taxes at this session.

WHEN the house passed the treasury appropriation measure it scotched the plan of Assistant Secretary Andrews to obtain \$500,000 for the payment of prohibition spies to be expended without accounting. Last week General Andrews tried to have this provision re-inserted in the bill in the senate, but Senator Bruce raised a point of order and was warmly supported by other eminent wets, and again the scheme was defeated. The employment of spies in enforcement of the prohibition law was roundly denounced; but of course what killed the plan was that the clause in question, permitting advances from the enforcement fund, would violate a federal statute and also was an attempt to legislate in an appropriation bill.

AS WAS related last week, the house naval affairs committee discovered that the budget bureau estimates for naval construction during the coming year make no provision for completion of the 1924 cruiser building program or for the building of two dirigibles authorized by congress. The committee members were angry, and their ire was increased when Secretary of the Navy Wilbur submitted his annual report showing how the administration's retrenchment policy was cramping and crippling the navy. Wherefore the committee, by unanimous vote, sent Chairman Butler to the White House with a letter which, though secret, was known to appeal to the President for his sanction for immediate action to build up the navy to the limit fixed by the 5-5-3 Washington treaty. The committee members say the navy is now in third place, and approximately \$500,000,000 is needed to bring it up to its right treaty strength. They want as much for construction during the coming year as finances and facilities will

permit. The procedure of the committee is without precedent.

WHEN the senate took up the river and harbor bill, included in which is authorization for the development of the lower Illinois river as part of the lakes-to-the-gulf waterway, the senators from states that have been fighting Chicago's diversion of lake water for the sanitary canal threatened a filibuster because they feared the measure would approve of that diversion. However, the leaders of both sides in the controversy held an all-day conference and Wednesday night reached a compromise which seemed to assure the speedy passage of the bill. It was agreed that this amendment should be inserted: "Provided that nothing in this act shall be construed as authorizing any diversion of water from Lake Michigan."

DISREGARDING all warnings, Governor Small of Illinois on Thursday appointed Frank L. Smith, senator-elect, to fill out the unexpired term of the late Senator McKinley. It was expected that Mr. Smith would go to Washington in a few days and attempt to take the seat, and that the Democrats and some Republicans would undertake to exclude him because of the slush-fund scandal attached to his primary campaign. The Republican leaders had hoped that this fight would not be brought on until next session because it precipitated now it would delay necessary legislation. Mr. Smith had indicated that he wished to present his defense to the senate at this time, but he was warned that if possible an immediate vote on the question of admitting him would be had, so he would have no chance. Governor Small declared that in appointing Smith he was following the wishes of the Illinois electorate as expressed at the polls in November, and that not a charge of undue influence or corruption at that election has been made. Senator Ashurst of Arizona introduced a resolution designed to prevent Smith from taking his seat.

ALBERT B. FALL, former secretary of the Interior, and Edward L. Doheny, oil magnate, are not guilty of conspiring to defraud the government in connection with the leases of the naval oil reserve at Elk Hills, Calif. Such was the verdict of the jury that heard the case against the two men in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia.

The celebrated case, involving the leasing of the naval reserve oil lands to Doheny and the \$100,000 transaction between them while Fall was secretary of the Interior in 1921, had been on trial for 23 days, with 17 lawyers dealing in a great mass of technical evidence. The jury deliberated for many hours and brought in its verdict of acquittal on Thursday morning. Counsel for the government at once took up the second of the oil lease criminal cases. In this one Fall and Harry F. Sinclair are the defendants and it involves the lease of the Teapot Dome oil field to Sinclair's company.

DEBATE on the agricultural bill in the house Wednesday served to give the Lowden Presidential boom an airing. Representative Dickinson of Iowa alluded to the Illinoisian as a leading champion of the new McNary bill for farm relief, and Mr. Howard of Nebraska asked the Iowa if "this candidate" was not a little beyond the desirable age for a President. Mr. Dickinson retorted that the two-term limit for Presidents was of more concern to the American people than the age of a President.

WARNING to Christian civilization that "its foundations are being again attacked and undermined" by religious restrictions in Mexico is contained in a long pastoral letter issued by the Catholic episcopate of the United States. It sets forth fully the church's side of the controversy with President Calles' government, whose charges against the church it says have been fabricated for campaign purposes. The bishops declare the letter is not an appeal for political intervention or for action of any kind by the American government.

Some of the foreign oil companies doing business in Mexico have accepted the Mexican petroleum law, apply-

ing for confirmation of their concessions. Luis Morones, minister of industry and commerce, was in war with controversy last week with the Standard Oil company over the question whether or not its representative had made such application. The Association of Producers of Petroleum in Mexico, meeting in New York, stood pat on its opposition to the Mexican law.

CHANCELLOR MARN and Foreign Minister Stresemann are not having an easy time maintaining their majority in the reichstag, but Marx is defiant. Last week he offered an alliance to the Socialists, promising to give them representation in the cabinet, and they refused. When he told this to the reichstag the Nationalists abused him and left the chamber. Philipp Scheidemann, Socialist leader, attacked the cabinet bitterly, especially Minister of Defense Geesler. He charged that a secret fund existed in the budget for the manufacture and hoarding of arms and airplanes in Russia. He asserted that the allies knew all about "the rotten militaristic conditions in Germany" and added: "We might as well correct these conditions ourselves as have the allies act for us." All of which was nuts for the French opponents of Briand's policy of conciliation.

RELATIONS between Italy and France continue rather strained and movements of French troops toward the frontier are going on, while by January 12, it is expected, the entire French fleet will be in the Mediterranean. Mussolini stated recently that he had 30 divisions north of the Po river. Of course no one predicts actual warfare, but everyone is nervous. The Italian government also has annoyed Great Britain by falling to invite the British fleet to visit Italian ports during its maneuvers in the Mediterranean early next year.

TURKEY, with both Italy and England in mind, is trying to arrange protecting alliances. A London correspondent says: "Within the last few days Turkey has offered an offensive and defensive alliance to Persia on the same lines as the treaty it recently made with Afghanistan. Great Britain is now subsidizing Persia through the Anglo-Persian Oil company to the tune of \$4,000,000 (\$20,000,000) annually, but it will have to do even better if it wishes to keep Persia, which is threatened by Turkey, Russia, and Afghanistan, in line."

DISPATCHES from Barcelona say another conspiracy to assassinate King Alfonso and Dictator de Rivera has been discovered in Madrid and many of the plotters arrested. They had planned to shoot the premier from a closed motor car in front of his office and then to kill the king with grenades when he was attending Gen. de Rivera's funeral.

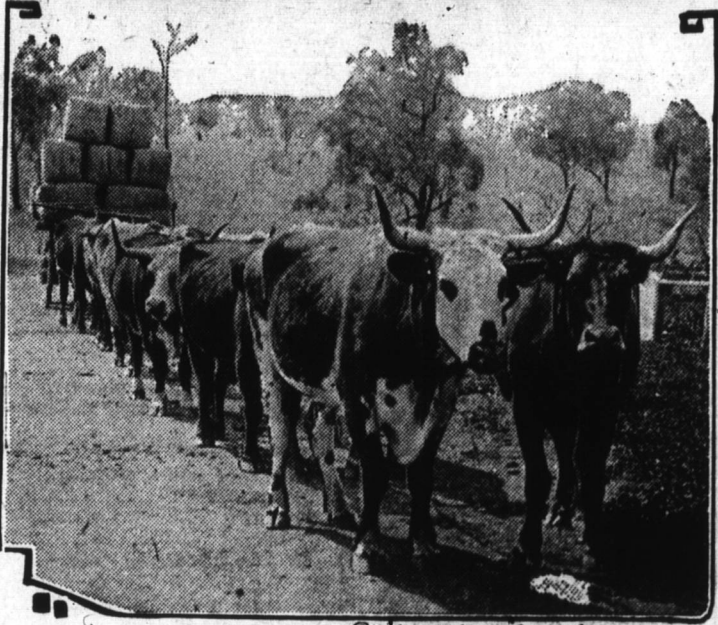
OFFICIAL announcement is made in Warsaw that the Polish army now has 258,095 soldiers and 179,000 officers, and that the navy has 2,124 sailors and 236 officers. These forces, which do not include the militarized police, will cost about \$78,500,000 in 1927. With the police and the special guards on the Russian and Lithuanian frontiers, Poland has nearly 400,000 men under arms. It is thus the greatest military power in central Europe, with an army four times as big as Germany's and really much stronger than Russia's.

DENMARK has a new cabinet formed of members of the Farmers' party with Madison Myrdal as premier. The foreign minister is Dr. Phil Moltensen, member of the Danish delegation to the League of Nations and president of the Danish interparliamentary group.

PRESIDENT ADOLFO DIAZ of Nicaragua has again asked for help from the United States, this time requesting that it create a naval neutral zone along the entire east coast of Nicaragua. This, he says, is "the only means of preventing the Mexican-supported rebels from advancing toward the capital and overthrowing my administration." Only a few days ago a gun-running vessel landed at an east island with arms, 4,000,000 rounds of ammunition and troops.

In total darkness has been demonstrated feasible through an invention of John L. Baird, British scientist. Mr. Baird's television isolates and then employs rays which are outside the visible spectrum, the sensitive electric eye of the apparatus readily selecting rays invisible to the human eye. In a demonstration Baird's invisible "searchlight" projected on a screen the outlines of a man sitting in total darkness. Darkness will no longer give security as a cloak for military operations.

ABOUT AUSTRALIA



Hauling Wool in Australia.

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

AUSTRALIA, most remote of the large overseas units of the British "empire" that recently have been given a status that almost amounts to independent nationhood, is 12,000 miles from the British Isles. Its isolation has made it in some ways the most self-reliant and democratic of Britain's offspring. Although more than 7,000 miles from the United States, Australia has been very strongly influenced governmentally by the latter country. The institutions of this Southern commonwealth are more nearly like our own than are those of any other important country.

The commonwealth of Australia (which has been in existence as such since 1901) consists of six states: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. As in our own Union, the states delegated only certain specific powers to the federal government and retained all the rest themselves.

The law-making machinery consists of a senate and a house of representatives. The members of both are elected. There is provision for non-voting delegates from the unorganized Northern Territory, paralleling the arrangement in the United States where by Alaska, Porto Rico and the Philippines send non-voting delegates to congress. The federal parliament of Australia has an advantage over the American congress in its smallness. There are now 36 senators and 73 representatives.

There is in Australia a federal district like our own District of Columbia, outside the boundaries and jurisdictions of the states. In this district a permanent federal capital city is now being built, and it is planned that the next parliament (that meeting in 1927) will be held there. Pending the building of this capital the city of Melbourne has been the temporary seat of government.

As in Canada, the executive power has in the past been exercised by a governor general, in theory representing the British king, but in some respects acting as representative of the existing British government. Under the most recent London agreement as to the status of the dominions, the governor general will in the future be merely the personal representative of the king, a sort of official figure-head standing by while the all-Australian premier, cabinet and congress run the country.

Government of the States.

Until the formation of the commonwealth in 1901 the present states of Australia were separate colonies. New South Wales is both the oldest and the most populous of the units, but it is exceeded in size by both Queensland and Western Australia. Its population is more than two million.

In form of government and methods of election there are much greater differences between the states of Australia than between those of the United States. New South Wales, as becomes the oldest of the units, is most conservative, having an upper house whose members are appointed for life by the British king. None other of the six states has such a feature. In the make-up of its lower house, New South Wales swings to a democratic extreme and employs proportional representation. Like all the other states, New South Wales has an appointed governor and a cabinet.

In Victoria the members of both houses are elected, those of the upper for six years, those of the lower for three. Those who vote for mem-

bers of the upper house, however, must own a certain amount of property. Members of the lower house are elected by universal suffrage.

Queensland is the most democratic of the states. It has gone so far as to throw overboard the idea inherited in our own country from England that the legislatures of states should consist of two houses. In 1922 Queensland abolished its upper house and its laws are now made by a single house of representatives whose members are elected for three years by universal suffrage.

South Australia and Western Australia both have governments like that of Victoria, legislatures of two houses, the upper elected under property qualifications, the lower by universal suffrage. Tasmania has an upper house made up in the same way but the members of its lower house are selected under a system of proportional representation.

Big as the United States.

Australia is almost exactly the same size as the continental United States, having an area of 2,974,581 square miles. Nearly half the commonwealth, however, is in the tropics. Tasmania has the coolest climate; it lies in latitude corresponding to northern Indiana and the southern half of Michigan. Melbourne, the southernmost big city of the mainland, is in latitude corresponding to that of Washington; while Sydney, Australia's New York, is in a position like that of Raleigh, N. C.

Going northward along Australia's eastern shore, one advances into warmer and warmer territory. By the time the city of Brisbane, capital of Queensland, is reached, one has attained a climate comparable to that of Palm Beach, Fla. From there the state of Queensland sweeps on until its northernmost point is nearer the equator than southern Mexico.

This "hot country" is Australia's sugar bowl, much of the tilled ground being devoted to the growth of cane as in America's South. As in the latter region, too, cotton grows well and its production is becoming a greater and greater industry.

The north central portion of Australia, making up the northern territory, is little developed and all but unknown. There, and in the northern parts of Queensland and Western Australia, dwell most of the few thousand remaining Australian natives, the "blackfellows." A large proportion of these are still savages. The northern and western portion of South Australia, and most of the interior of Western Australia are desert lands. They are more pronounced deserts than the great arid belt of the United States east of the Rocky mountains. The Australian desert regions are practically uninhabited and unused. Around the fringe of this super-dry region, however, is a semi-arid area in which millions of sheep and cattle graze. In the better watered, agricultural regions wheat is the principal product.

Minerals, especially gold, have been found in various parts of Australia. Western Australia, across the continent from the older settled communities of southeastern Australia, owes its development largely to the discovery of gold.

The traditional policy of the commonwealth is for a "White Australia," a policy as firmly grounded there as is the Monroe Doctrine in the United States. It is not that Australia despises immigration. It is rather that she has clung to her ideal of a "homogeneous people of British origin," and still believes in it.

AMONG HIS OWN PEOPLE

By BOYD GURNEY

(Copyright by W. G. Chapman.)

THE sentence of the court is that Private Albert Kane be dishonorably dismissed from the service of the govern-

ment. Colonel Scott snapped out the words. Private Albert Kane raised his head and looked at the officers for the first time. Wasn't he, outcast, he had expected a minimum of two years' imprisonment. And that was all his sentence—to be dismissed from the regiment.

"You're lucky, Kane. Wish I was in your shoes," said one of his companions, as he gathered his things together. "Going East, I suppose?" "Yes," answered Kane nonchalantly, and walked toward the entrance of the camp.

Kane was free. He had enlisted six months before, after a year of disipation, in the vain hope of forgetting the past. Once, so long ago that the memory of that time was like a dream to him, he had been a decent man. He had had a good position in a western city, and he had loved Dorothy Davis, whom he knew to be the one woman in the world whom he must love forever. At last he had been in a position to ask her to become his wife. And she had broken the news to him that she was engaged to be married. It was to Colonel Scott, a man considerably her senior; and Kane had gathered that if he had asked her sooner . . . however, there was no use speculating about that.

Kane gave up his position, and he hardly remembered anything of the year that followed. Suffice it that, at the end of it, he found himself penniless outside an army camp in Texas. He had the sudden thought of redeeming himself. Here, at least, there would be a life of action. Kane enlisted.

He found the monotony of army life in the little border post intolerable. He found that Colonel Scott was his commanding officer. He found that every week he saw Dorothy. He fled from the sight of her, and fortunately for him, she did not recognize him in his soldier's uniform. Once he was sent on an errand to her home, and he left the message with the servant and fled. He ate his heart out. He became known as the worst soldier in the regiment. He was continually punished. At last he committed a graver offense against discipline and was tried by court-martial and dishonorably discharged.

In his relief from his fate he resolved to go East and try to make a man of himself. But as he stepped, with his bundle upon his arm, across the enclosure, he saw Dorothy coming toward him.

In vain he turned his eyes away. She saw him; she knew him. He saw the look of recognition in her eyes. She stopped. Kane hurried past her, not daring to look back. He gained the entrance to the barracks. But he did not go toward the railroad station, as he had planned. Instead, he turned southward toward the border. He walked jauntily past the customs-house, over the bridge, and flung himself upon the ground. He was in Mexico, and he meant never to return.

Albert Kane looked up into the sky and searched the distant hills. The summer sun was declining, and as the mescal went out of him he realized his abasement.

For fifteen months he had lived in the squalid Mexican village twelve miles beyond the border. At first looked on with suspicion, he had become completely identified with the villagers. He sprawled in the adobe hut, an unclean thing, like the creeping lizards about him.

Few men have sunk to such depths as Kane had reached. Now, deep in his heart, an elusive memory stirred. It was a memory of America, which had once been dear to him, of a civilized land where human faces looked into his instead of the brutish peasants' eyes.

What was it he was remembering? He knew now. Somebody had kicked him. It was the rebel leader, Santos, riding by with a hundred troopers. And what was it had been said?

"That Gringo is always in a stupor. He is harmless. Do not kill him."

Santos had kicked him contemptuously and ridden on his way. But Kane remembered now. He remembered the whispered colloquy. Nobody knew that he understood much Spanish, for he seldom spoke to anyone. But Kane had gathered that the troop was to raid the American camp at sunup.

Slowly the realization of this creeping

into his mind. He heard again the laughter of the Mexican leader, his boast of what he would do to the Gringos, his talk of the American women . . . then slowly, like a flower, Dorothy's face unfolded before his eyes against the fading West.

Kane staggered to his feet and looked about him. Tethered to a nearby hut was a fine stallion, the property of Santos, which he had left there till his return on the morrow, not wishing to risk it in the impending fight, if fight there was to be. Nobody was guarding it.

Kane crept toward it. He saw the saddle and bridle at the door of a nearby hut. In a moment he had placed the saddle on the animal's back and fastened the girth.

He fitted the bridle, hearing shouts as the Mexicans saw him and divined his purpose. Men ran toward him. Kane cut the halter and leaped on the stallion's back. In a moment he was away, galloping along the road that led toward the border. Behind him he still heard the cries of the stupefied Mexicans.

III

Once out of sight of the village he moved slowly, for before him, miles away, outlined against the horizon, he saw the cavalry of Santos marching. The day died and the stars came out. Kane rode along the deserted road.

It was midnight when he saw far off the winding Rio. Looking down, he saw the camp of the raiders at the foot of the hill. A high bank on either side of him, rising up the mountains, cut off all possibility of a detour. He must ride through the camp.

He gave his horse a rest; then, mounting, he continued, very cautiously, until, topping the last hill, he saw the pickets under him. Then he put his horse to the gallop.

Faster and faster he drove the stallion down the hill. He heard the shouts of the guard, he caught a vision of men, risen from sleep, staring at him; and then he was running the gauntlet between two lines of Mexicans. He heard their excited shouts. Bullets whizzed past him. He felt as if were the sting of a bean through the forehead, through the shoulder. His right hand, pierced, dropped nervelessly from the reins. He felt the blood stream down him.

Then he had passed them, and as his snorting horse gathered itself together beneath him, he heard the troop, with wild yells, take up the pursuit. The river glistened before him. The current ran fast and strong. Only a moment he hesitated; and, as he did so, he felt another sting under the arm. Then he drove the stallion into the water.

The bullets whizzed the water about him. Kane felt his senses leaving him, and an awful faintness. He felt the icy water wrap him round like a shroud. Behind him his pursuers had halted. No ordinary horse could swim from the south to the north bank of the Rio in flood time.

The current was sweeping him away. But before him he saw, white against the night, the tents of his own people. With a last effort Kane spurred the flapping beast beneath the water. The stallion snorted and suddenly began to tread upon the river bottom.

Splashing and plunging, it gained the American side and rushed up the bank. Behind him the Mexicans were still firing, but now the bullets went wild. Kane was in no danger. If only he could pull himself together and reach his goal!

He reined in the stallion with his last reserve strength. He walked it slowly through the entrance to the camp. Men were already alert, aroused by the shots, and falling in. Kane heard the colonel's voice. He saw a woman standing at his side. He stopped the horse in front of the commanding officer.

"Santos is leading a party to attack the camp, sir," he faltered. "I came to warn you."

And Kane fell from his horse into the arms of the colonel's orderly. They carried him into the colonel's house. Kane opened his eyes after a long interval, to see faces looking into his. He saw the doctor shake his head. A sense of supreme joy thrilled him. It was good to die—it was good that this should be ended—and he ended thus.

And among the faces he saw that of the colonel's wife. Her tears fell over him. Kane tried to speak, but there was no need of speech. In that last interchange of looks all was explained, and the reconciliation effected. He had saved others—what did it matter if he could not save himself?

And, with his eyes still holding Dorothy's, he fell asleep.

Faithfulness

Give us a man, young or old, high or low, on whom we know we can thoroughly depend—who will stand firm when others fall—the friend faithful and true, the adviser honest and fearless, the adversary just and chivalrous; in such an one there is a fragment of the Rock of Ages.—Dean Stauley.

Telesior Hailed as Big Scientific Triumph

Modern science, which recently made possible telephonic conversations across the Atlantic, now has added a startling new possibility, that persons who telephone also see those to whom they speak. That prospect of vision may grow out of an apparatus called the telesior, for which a scientist sees a definite future as a means of transmitting motion pictures by radio.

The device as it operates at present and its possibilities were explained at St. Louis by Dr. E. F. W. Alexander, consulting engineer of the General Electric company and the Radio Corporation of America.

In experiments preparatory to trans-Atlantic telephone service, engineers have talked with New York recently from London, and some persons believe that with a phone circuit paralleled by a perfected telesior-persons talking may see each other.

An invisible ray that permits seeing