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WHAT'S GOING ON

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Asks Powers to Agree on Further Cut in Naval Armament.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ON INSTRUCTION from President Coolidge, the American ambassadors at London, Paris, Rome and Tokyo presented last Thursday to the governments of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan a memorandum suggesting that they "empower their delegates at the forthcoming meeting of the preparatory commission for the disarmament conference at Geneva to negotiate and conclude at an early date an agreement further limiting naval armament, supplementing the Washington treaty on that subject, and covering the classes of vessels not covered by that treaty."

The President in a special message to congress explained the considerations that moved him to take this action, and included the text of the note to the powers. In this he said the American delegates at Geneva would have "full powers to negotiate definitely regarding measures for further naval limitation, and, if they are able to reach an agreement with the representatives of the other signatories of the Washington treaty, to conclude a convention embodying such agreement, in tentative or final form as may be found practicable."

The American government and people, the President said, "are convinced that competitive armament constitutes one of the most dangerous contributing causes of international suspicion and discord, and is calculated eventually to lead to war."

Despite the hope of the United States to complete the work of the Washington treaty and extend limiting treaties to cover cruisers, destroyers and submarines, the message continued, "far-reaching building programs have been laid down by certain powers, and there has appeared in our own country, as well as abroad, a sentiment urging naval construction on the ground that such construction is taking place elsewhere."

PRESIDENTIAL campaign politics and the third term problem came out into the open last week, and probably will stay there for some time to come. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, a wet Republican and for long a potential candidate, started things with an address in New York in the course of which he asserted that in his judgment Calvin Coolidge would refrain from injecting the third term issue into the campaign of 1928 and would not be a candidate to succeed himself. He declared that other Republican leaders throughout the country felt as he did and that Mr. Coolidge's common sense would keep him from seeking a renomination. Doctor Butler's speech dealt with issues he believes will have to be met in 1928 and told the Republicans that the party would face the fight of its life and that victory would go to that party which stood squarely on three issues—prohibition, farm relief and foreign policy.

The lid thus being taken off, Beck of Wisconsin, insurgent Republican, introduced a resolution in the house, declaring it to be "the sense" of that body that congress is opposed to a third presidential term. Speaker Nicholas Longworth, who is supposed to have presidential ambitions, in an address before the women's patriotic conference on national defense in Washington, caustically criticized the administration's economy program, especially as it affected the navy.

The leading argument of those in the house who opposed any appropriation for the cruisers was that another limitation of armament conference might be held in the comparatively near future, and that, under the circumstances, we should proceed with no new actual building program," said Mr. Longworth. "To my mind, that argument refutes itself. I have not

the slightest doubt that it was our commanding strength and generous willingness to make great sacrifices that brought about the successful results of the Washington conference. "Today we are in no such position of superiority but rather in a position of inferiority. We must then take up the question of a new conference on the limitation of armament, not as a nation willing to make great sacrifices in the cause of peace, but as a nation begging others to make sacrifices themselves."

Senator Borah responded to Doctor Butler's challenge concerning prohibition by admitting that was a proper issue in the coming campaign and asserting that the Republican party declare itself unmistakably on that question. He said this would be done by the voters themselves and therefore the issue should be presented in the states and districts prior to the election of delegates so that the delegates might be chosen in accordance with the popular view. This proposal sent shivers down the spines of many Republican leaders.

Henry Ford contributed his bit by visiting the White House and then informing the correspondents that he had told the President that the country generally is "solid as a rock" and that existing prosperity will not only continue but increase. He added that he considered the President "more popular with the people of the United States than ever before," but he refused to discuss the President's chances for renomination.

AT THIS writing it appears likely that the McNary-Haugen farm relief measure will be passed by congress and that it will be vetoed by President Coolidge because he still considers it a price-fixing measure and therefore economically unsound. The President was said to favor rather the Curtis-Crisp bill, which contains no equalization fee provision and which Frank O. Lowden condemns for that reason as "wholly missing the point of legislation which we have been advocating." Farm bloc leaders in Washington said if Mr. Coolidge vetoed the McNary-Haugen bill, the corn belt would rally to Lowden for the Presidential nomination.

One emergency agricultural relief bill was passed by congress and signed by the President. It appropriates \$10,000,000 to be expended in co-operation with the states in the eradication of the corn borer.

IN ALL likelihood the world court has ceased to be a political issue and the United States is definitely out of that tribunal. Last week the State department received from Great Britain and two other major powers, not named, notification that they were not prepared to accept the American reservations unconditionally. President Coolidge announced in his Kansas City speech that unless all the nations adhering to the court protocol accepted the American reservations without change he would not again submit the matter to the senate and the United States would remain outside the court. It was stated at the White House last week that Mr. Coolidge had not changed his mind in regard to this.

MEMBERS of the senate committee on privileges and elections again failed to agree on a report in the case of Frank L. Smith, senator-designate from Illinois. A majority of the committee seemed to be in favor of recommending the seating of Smith, but several, including the Democrats, thought that evidence as to the facts in the case should be presented before a report was made to the senate. One may repeat the prediction, made several weeks ago, that the matter will not be settled before the present congress comes to an end on March 4.

FOR the second time President Coolidge withdrew the nomination of William J. Tilson of Atlanta to be federal judge for the middle district of Georgia. The senate was about to vote on the nomination and rejection was certain. Senator Harris of Georgia led the opposition, saying that Tilson was personally obnoxious to him. The judiciary committee had twice reported adversely on the nomination.

It stands in a lower pedestal near by.

It is never unguarded, and for more than eight years has been in the custody of A. C. Jordan of Lyons, Kan., tall, stalwart, genial assistant sergeant at arms, whose duty it is to maintain order on the floor.

Made in 1842 of ebony fescos, or rods, three feet long, representing the states, bound with thongs of silver and surmounted with a silver globe and spreading eagle, the mace of the house represents powers rarely exercised, including summary expulsion of a disorderly member.

Usually, when the assistant sergeant at arms is called upon to restore order, he is able to do so merely by marching through the disturbed aisles carrying the mace or by holding it over two excited members. If a misbehaving member fails to heed that display of authority, however, he may lay it beside him. That act automatically expels him, and he would have to obtain a formal reinstatement.

PORTUGAL enjoyed one of its periodic revolutionary movements last week. The revolt started with the military in Oporto and spread to Lisbon, the capital. There was fighting in both cities and considerable bloodshed, and before the week ended it was announced that the affair was practically over, the government having suppressed the rebellion. During the fighting in Lisbon the American legation was riddled by bullets and Minister Fred M. Dearing was forced to abandon it. The revolt was directed primarily against General Carmona, the president-dictator.

UNDETERRED by protests from both the Cantonese and the northern Chinese, Great Britain went ahead with her preparations for the defense of the international concession at Shanghai, and the Gloucestershire and Durham regiments, having reached Hongkong, proceeded to Shanghai as did a number of British warships. Dispatches from Hankow, headquarters of the Cantonese, said Eugene Chen, nationalist foreign minister, had resumed conversations with Owen O'Malley, the British charge d'affaires, and that an amicable agreement might result. One reason for this may have been the reported reverses suffered by the Cantonese troops in Chekiang province, which halted their progress toward Shanghai. Marshal Sun Chuanfang, allied with the northerners, was said to have captured Chuchow.

Much of the speech from the throne at the reopening of the British parliament was devoted to the Chinese tangle, and while both the king and Prime Minister Baldwin gave assurance that Great Britain desired a peaceful settlement by negotiation, the latter made it plain the government was determined to protect its nationals in China and would land troops at Shanghai if this was made advisable by local conditions, regardless of any protests.

Secretary of State Kellogg made an effort to solve the problem of Shanghai by proposing that that city be excluded from the zone of warfare between the Chinese factions, but this was not considered favorably by either the nationalists or the northerners, and of foreign nations only Japan gave it approval. Premier Mussolini announced that Italy would support Great Britain's program and sent a warship and marines to the scene of action. The transport Chaumont, carrying 1,200 American marines from San Diego, arrived at Honolulu and proceeded eastward, for either Guam or China. About six hundred American missionaries have taken refuge in Shanghai and more arrive from the interior daily.

THERE was heavy fighting in and about Chinandega between the Nicaraguan government forces and the rebels. The latter occupied the city but were driven out after Lee Mason and William Brookes, American aviators in the service of President Diaz, had raided and bombed them. The city was practically destroyed by bombardment and flames. A dispatch from Managua said Doctor Sacasa, leader of the liberals, was preparing to accept the government's peace terms or withdraw from the country.

FOR some two months following March 1 President Coolidge and his personal and official household will occupy the Patterson mansion on Dupont Circle, that residence having been selected as the temporary White House while the executive mansion is undergoing repairs. The house is one of the show places of Washington and is now owned by Mrs. Elmer Schlesinger, the daughter of the late Robert W. Patterson, editor of the Chicago Tribune.

YOSHIHITO, the late emperor of Japan, was buried last week with all the prescribed ancient rites, lasting for several days. A million and a half persons gathered in Tokyo to see the funeral procession, and in the crush two were killed and hundreds injured. After the ceremonies in a specially constructed pavilion, the body was taken by rail to Asakawa and placed in the tomb at the foot of a nearby hill.

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BIG EVENTS FOR "SUNDAY TOWN"

By A. G. SHERWIN

(Copyright by W. G. Chapman.)

LOOKS like as if every day was Sunday in this dead old town, eh, neighbor?" remarked a patriarch of the town in question.

"That's right," asserted a companion very slightly his junior in local history.

"The Norths made it, the Norths killed it," added the first speaker sentimentally, and then both glanced quite appropriately over at a great unoccupied factory building, with small structures and any number of workmen's cottages about it, also unoccupied.

Gloom and decay were expressed in the presentment. The great gates of the plant through which once trooped happy and hopeful artisans hung loosely. There was an array of broken windows. Here and there the cement casing of the factory had crumbled away. The yards were overgrown with weeds. Dismal desolation was suggested at every angle of vision.

The history of the great abandoned plant of John North, for ten years a busy hive of industry, had engulfed the history of the town itself. At the height of seeming prosperity there had come an awful crash. Stories of speculation, of extravagance, or enormous outside investments were rife. A receiver had been appointed, the assets of the business sacrificed and Walter Drury, the young manager of the city office of the plant, was arrested and sent to the state penitentiary for ten years on a charge of forgery, embezzlement and falsifying the books of the concern.

Drury was unknown in Fairfield and everybody pitied old John North, who died a month after the crash. He left a daughter and two sons, at the time small children. They were given into the charge of an aunt in a distant state. The plant and the splendid North residence were left to the estate, but stripped of their contents. Nobody wanted to occupy a plant or a mansion with which such gloomy memories were connected and both had remained vacant.

It was on the very day that the two old pioneers discussed the situation of what had become widely known as "Sunday town," that a stranger arrived on the afternoon train. He was neat in his dress, tall, dark, and reserved in his manner. He registered at the one little hotel of Fairfield as Paul Moore and his first visit was to the office of old Judge Martin, who nominally had what was left of the North estate in charge.

After that this Paul Moore became a familiar figure in the town. His bearing was impressive, and and subdued. He was kindly and courteous to those he met, but conversed briefly on all occasions.

"A strange man, but full of wonderful power and sense," remarked the judge one day to a friend. "I fancy he is going to be the coming man of the town."

"Why, what do you mean?" was surprisedly queried.

"Haven't you heard that the plant is to start up again?"

"Why, no. That will be good news for the town, indeed!"

"Yes, Moore has made all the arrangements. It appears he has no money, but a marvelous business adaptability. He has got some capitalists to furnish a large amount of capital, bond the business and put him in charge as manager. We have co-operated with him for enough to give him a very advantageous lease."

Then began big events for Sunday town. The quiet, humdrum routine of the place was invaded. Bustle, activity, progress became the order of the day. The plant was reconstructed, new machinery installed. Old workmen who had moved from the town were recalled. The cottages were put in shape for these new tenants. Storekeepers and hotel men were attracted to the place.

Through it all, consistently quiet, yet forceful, the strangely silent Moore day by day built up the revived business. His eye and thoughts were everywhere. The number of employees doubled in a year. The big factory turned out its product daily in carload lots. A happy, contented working community grew up around the great plant.

One year, two years, three years and then a great event was chronicled in the little weekly news journal published at Sunday town. Paul Moore had piled up such great profits, that he had paid off the bond issue, bought out all the other interests and had become the sole owner of the business.

Honors piled up for him on every side, but he remained the same silent but substantial citizen. He was offered the mayoralty chair and refused it, other and higher district political preferment was tendered, but he

seemed to shrink from publicity and from being conspicuous.

"I wish to ask you something about the family of Mr. North," he said to Judge Martin one day.

The lawyer told him that Miss Eunice North was teaching school. The rent income from the plant had enabled her to place her two younger brothers in college.

"I wish her to return here to take up her rightful position in the world," said Moore.

"What do you mean?" inquired the judge wonderingly.

"Just this: through the easy lease given us at the start by the North estate, from the nucleus of the old business here success and a fortune have come. I am a grateful man. I propose making over to Miss North a half interest in the business I now own. At my own expense I wish the old North mansion restored."

"Strange man!" murmured the lawyer in almost awed tone.

"Further, I wish the name of John North restored upon the front of all the buildings. He built this business originally. He shall have all the credit."

So it was done, and so from obscurity Eunice North and her brothers came back to the old-time affluence and comfort.

Paul Moore evaded seeing the young girl whom he had so benefited. One evening, however, she sent for him. A beautiful face confronted him, but pale and troubled.

"Mr. Moore," she said, "I have sought to meet you to thank you. And now in the light of a new discovery I must have your confidence—I fear, your forgiveness."

"What do you mean?" inquired Moore in a low tone.

"I do not believe you are Paul Moore—I believe you are Walter Drury, the faithful manager of my dead father, who suffered ten years of imprisonment—unjustly."

He was silent, his face grew a trifle paler.

"Speak to me!" cried Eunice: "you are Walter Drury?"

"Yes."

"Since returning here I have found some old papers. It was my father's complication that involved you and you sacrificed yourself—"

"You mistake," interrupted Drury quickly. "Your father committed some errors, for which as proprietor of the business he could not be held amenable. To shield him I bore the burden. Shall I tell you why? He saved my father from ruin years ago, he gave me my first business position. I loved him, I saved his honored name, I have restored it—I am content."

She was near to him. She seized his hands, her tears, her kisses showered upon them. He told her he planned to go away so he would not be a reminder of the old trouble. She bade him stay, for without him now life would be lonely.

And so they were married.

Londoners Duped by Old Weather Prophet

Almanac forecasts are not taken with much seriousness these days, but in the sixteenth century the prophets were respected. When they foretold that on February 1, 1524, the Thames would rise in flood and overwhelm London, hundreds of people fled to the high ground on the eve of the fatal day. The prior of St. Bartholomew's went so far as to build a house on Harrow hill and equip it with food and boats for a watery siege. But nothing happened, and when annoyed Londoners questioned the prophets, they admitted a slip in their calculations that put the affair a mere 100 years away. But the way of the prognosticator is hard. When William Lilly, quite by accident, correctly foretold the great fire of London, he had to convince a committee that he had not had a hand in making his forecast come true.—Manchester (Eng.) Guardian.

This One Destructive

The whole of continental America affords a home for the duck hawk, which is the swiftest, most daring of hawks, says Nature Magazine. The quick wing beat, unlike that of most other hawks, is an excellent field character. When hunting, it rises above its prey and drops directly down, seldom missing a catch. Birds are known to kill beyond their needs, for sometimes the dead are left where they fall.

"Seedy" Looking Man

The term "seedy" as applied to a person who is somewhat shabby really refers to a plant, the appearance of which is somewhat disorderly owing to the fact that it has gone to seed when all the strength has been exhausted in the process of seed development. The term "seedy" is especially applied to one whose clothing is unorderly and soiled and whose hair may be in need of brushing or cutting.

Unpaid For

Complaining Customer—That law mover I bought has all rusted.

Hardware Merchant—Maybe that's because there's so much due on it.

FLYING OVER AFRICA



Workmen's Huts in the Belgian Congo

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

FLYING over the sands of the Sahara desert, the jungles of wildest Africa, and the lake country of East Africa, French aviators recently crossed the continent at its widest part in a seaplane. Taking the air near Marseille, the two French navy planes skirted the Spanish west coast of Africa, landing at Dakar, the westernmost city of the "Dark Continent."

They found Dakar, port of call of vessels plying between European, South African and South American ports, a thriving city of about 25,000 people, with well laid-out streets, schools, hospitals and workshops. Dakar owes its importance as a port to the nearness to South America. While Liverpool is more than 3,000 miles from New York, Dakar is only slightly more than half that distance from Pernambuco, Brazil, the easternmost port of South America.

The Berbers and Fulias represented in the city's population were met with at every stop in the Sudan and Nigeria after the flyers turned inland, for both races are scattered over the north and northwest portion of Africa. The Berbers are believed to have been at one time masters of the Mediterranean, and it is probable that the continent was named for the Afrigha tribe, a sub-tribe of the Berbers. Evidence has been uncovered dating back to the Stone Age, of the existence of a race of people resembling the Berbers who inherited North Africa.

Unlike other African peoples, some of the Berbers might pass for Americans, if they donned American clothing. Their skin is light, their eyes blue, and many are blonds. Although the Berbers and Arabs have been closely associated for centuries, and are Mohammedans, the two races have remained distinct.

Fulias Are Strong

The Fulias were originally herdsmen in the western and central Sudan, but they extended their domain to Nigeria. That they are a mixture of Berber and negro is the most generally accepted theory, yet their reddish brown or light chestnut colored skin, oval faces, even smooth hair, straight even noses and delicately shaped lips differentiate them from the negro type.

Taken as a whole the Fulias are intelligent people with great strength of character. They are famous for their horsemanship and as soldiers are mostly cavalrymen.

At Bamako, on the Niger river, one of the planes became disabled and was left for repairs. The other plane followed the Niger to Timbuktu, so-called "city of mystery" which lies nine miles from the river proper, on the edge of the Sahara. This was one of the most interesting stopping places on the flight.

Whether Timbuktu is entered from the south by the "water" route or the bridge paths from the north or west, the city seems nothing more than a labyrinth of narrow streets with mud walls thrown up on both sides without any sense of direction. Regardless of what street one takes, after a few right and left turns, he finds himself in the famous market place.

Timbuktu was founded as a trading center in the Eleventh century and has never lost that characteristic. Of the 8,000 inhabitants many are nomads who pass through with cattle or engage in the great salt trade from the central Sahara. The "home-folks" lead simple, fairly cheerful, but uneventful lives.

Up the Niger and Senegal. From Timbuktu, the planes followed the Niger to Lokoja, Nigeria, at the confluence of the Niger and Benue rivers in British territory. Lokoja is the oldest white settlement in the interior of Nigeria and was once the seat of administration for the inland provinces. At the meeting place of two great rivers, it was, too, the door-

way to the north. Something of this function still survives, but the completion of a railway in recent years, running from Lagos on the coast to the relatively healthy uplands of northern Nigeria, and passing far west of Lokoja, has decreased the importance of the latter town.

From Lokoja the aviators flew up the Benue river and into French equatorial Africa, in the heart of which lay another stopping place, Archambault. There the flyers had passed from Mohammedan territory into a region of fetishism. A sect of this primitive people has some unusual features. Its members spurn clothes, wearing only a thin strip of cloth and a bead belt. Ochre clay is daubed over their bodies, and they adorn themselves with glass-bead necklaces, metal bracelets, and ostrich-feather head-dresses. Each member always carries a small stool, and much of his time is spent seated on it in solemn dignity. Their secret communications are through prolonged guttural coughs.

Turning southward on leaving Fort Archambault, the flyers again left French territory at the Ubangi river and entered the Belgian Congo. This huge Belgian possession is more than 77 times the size of Belgium. On their way to Stanleyville, metropolis of the Congo, the aviators flew over vast forests. One, the so-called Pygmy forest, covers 25,000 square miles. Seldom is the ground in this whole area touched by the rays of the tropical sun, for the underbrush and the foliage of the giant trees are so thick that only here and there a pencil-like stream of light pierces the darkness, beneath. The jungles seethe with vicious animals and insects, and the Pygmies, who seldom grow more than four feet in height, are the principal inhabitants of this wooded fastness.

The Belgian Congo.

About 10,000 of the 9,000,000 people in the Belgian Congo are white. Most of them live at the numerous stations established throughout the colony by the Belgian government. The natives are black and include many different types according to their geographic location.

The resources of the colony have hardly been scratched. Gold, tin, copper, lead, rubber, palm nuts, palm oil, and iron are important exports. Ironstone hills in the southeastern regions have an estimated deposit of millions of tons of high-grade ore. The rubber supply seems inexhaustible.

At Stanleyville the aviators found a busy little town, built on both sides of the Congo river. On the east bank is the headquarters of the vice governor and many up-to-date residences, while the left bank is occupied by railway terminals and workshops. Palm trees lining the avenues in the residential section remind one of a southern Florida boulevard. All this modernization has come about since the eighties when Stanleyville was little more than a native village.

Flying in a southeasterly direction, the plane reached the African Great Lakes, passed over its second stretch of British territory, and came to the Indian ocean at Killimane, a small town about midway along the coast of Mozambique, Portuguese territory. The city of Mozambique, the next stop, is situated on a small island about three miles off the coast. It was once the headquarters of the Portuguese East African government and the center of the East African slave trade. The slave markets have disappeared, yet Mozambique has changed little during the last few hundred years.

Majunga, largest port on the west coast of Madagascar, required a long hop across the Mozambique channel. From this point the aviators flew to Antananarivo, capital of the third largest of the world's islands (outside the Arctic regions), thus ending the first half of their trip.