

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

VOL. LIII.

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY MARCH 17, 1927.

NO. 6.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Coolidge Vetoes the Farm Relief Bill—Crisis at Shanghai.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE on Friday vetoed the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill, and all hope for governmental relief for the agriculturists was abandoned until the next congress shall meet. The chief executive, in one of the longest veto messages ever received by congress, repeated his already well-known reasons for considering the bill economically unsound and fallacious. He said it was a price fixing scheme indirectly and would put the government into buying and selling. He condemned the equalization fee as a tax on some farmers for the benefit of others. He asserted the plan would increase production and lower the world price to a point that would result in flooding the country with foreign farm product imports over the tariff wall. The President appended an opinion by Attorney General Sargent holding the bill unconstitutional in numerous particulars. Whatever may be the opinion of the soundness of Mr. Coolidge's reasons for vetoing the bill or of his political wisdom in this respect, there is no question of his consistency and his courage in the matter. In the central West the immediate reaction to the veto was a definite determination to put Frank O. Lowden in the running for the Presidential nomination at the next national convention. The Democrats in congress saw an opportunity to win the farmer votes for tariff reduction.

MATTERS in China moved rapidly toward a crisis last week. Following his crushing defeat at Hangchow by the Nationalists, Marshal Sun Chuan-fang, hitherto ruler of Kiangsu province, gave up Hangchow, Kashing and Ningpo, second largest port in Chekiang province, and retired on Shanghai. At the same time the Nationalists in Shanghai started a general strike which, though nominally directed against Sun, was actually an anti-foreign demonstration and pretty effectively tied up business and traffic in the city. The Chinese officials tried to curb it by the summary execution of scores of leaders and student agitators whose heads were sliced off and stuck on poles in the streets. In the midst of the ruction Sun decided he was beaten and practically surrendered leadership of the anti-Canton forces there to Gen. Chang Chung-chang, boss of Fengtien, who entered the lower Yangtse valley with a large army. Crews of two of Sun's gunboats anchored in the Whangpoo river rebelled and began firing three-inch shells in the direction of the Shanghai arsenal. Owing to poor marksmanship nearly all the shells fell in the French concession, where several residences were struck. French gunboats speedily put an end to this performance. On Thursday the Nationalists called off the strike, partly because they were running out of funds and partly because of the terrorism of the executions. The beheadings ceased and most of the workers returned to their jobs. Twelve hundred American marines arrived from San Diego on the transport Chaumont but not disembark. That made the total of American armed forces there about 2,300. Five American warships were at anchor in the Whangpoo and four more destroyers were on the way there. The British forces were constantly being strengthened, and the French were reinforced. All these may be needed when the expected struggle for possession of Shanghai starts between the Cantonese and the armies of Marshal Chang Tso-lin which are moving from the north.

BY A vote of 208 to 172 the house accepted the senate amendment to the navy appropriation bill providing money for beginning the three light cruisers whose construction the President

has insisted should be delayed. The house reduced the amount from \$1,200,000 to \$450,000, and the senate acquiesced in this change.

IN ORDER to provide a place of refuge for British subjects imperiled by the civil warfare in Nicaragua, the British government decided to send a cruiser to the Central American republic. This plan was adopted after the British charge d'affaires at Managua had notified the government that President Diaz and the American minister, Mr. Eberhardt, had stated they could not guarantee to protect British lives and property in case of renewed street fighting. It was stated in London that the sending of the warship does not indicate a change in the British policy in Latin America nor a change in attitude toward the Monroe doctrine. Secretary of State Kellogg in a formal statement said that "Admiral Latimer has been instructed from the beginning to protect foreign as well as American lives and property and is doing everything he can to do so."

Seemingly determined to put an end to the Sacaca rebellion, the American government sent more marines to Nicaragua and Admiral Latimer created new neutral zones for the purpose of keeping the railway in operation and of protecting the cities. Dispatches from Managua said President Diaz was about to submit to the Nicaraguan congress a proposal for a 100 year alliance with the United States which would mean practically the creation of a protectorate.

ITALY'S formal reply to President Coolidge's naval disarmament proposal was transmitted to Washington. It was a politely worded but flat rejection, and was drafted by Premier Mussolini himself. Before being a military or even political problem, naval defense is for Italy one of existence, the note says. Geography establishes characteristics which cannot be disregarded. Italy's position in Europe is determined entirely by the fact that her territorial limits are within one body of water, outlets of which are entirely controlled by other nations.

The note declares that so far as the European continent is concerned, there is an inalienable interdependence of all categories of armaments of every single power and that it is impossible to adopt the measure for only the five great naval powers. Japan, on the other hand, has accepted the Coolidge proposal and says its delegates at Geneva will have full power to negotiate an agreement extending the limitation to all classes of fighting ships. But the Japanese reply makes it plain that the government is unwilling to extend the 5-5-3 ratio to cruisers, destroyers and submarines. For these vessels it wants a ratio nearer a parity with America and Great Britain.

SOVIET Russia has been twisting the British lion's tail too persistently, and last week it received from the British government a blunt warning that all relations between the two nations would be broken off unless it mended its ways at once. In the note, called one of the most outspoken ever formulated by the British foreign office, Sir Austen Chamberlain, foreign secretary, says that the relations between the British government and the union of soviet socialist republics "continue notoriously of an unsatisfactory nature." He declares that "there are limits beyond which it is dangerous to drive public opinion in Great Britain" and that a continuance of the breaches of the agreement sooner or later will cause a break between the two countries.

All Russia celebrated the ninth anniversary of the establishment of the Red army, and the press carried articles by leading soviet authorities asserting that the army was prepared to meet all eventualities.

not be taken up in the house unless acted on by the senate, it was considered practically dead so far as this congress was concerned.

In its intervals of real work the senate passed the house bill authorizing the veterans' bureau to make loans to veterans on their adjusted service certificates. The house passed the James bill authorizing an appropriation of \$8,491,000 for new barracks at various army posts. President Coolidge signed the radio act and the army appropriation bill.

WHEN Samuel Insull of Chicago appeared before the Reed committee in Washington he answered most of the questions concerning his contributions to the Illinois primary campaign funds, but flatly refused to tell to whom he gave \$40,000 for local political campaigns. Nor would he permit his attorney to reveal this. The public utilities magnate was instructed to return to the committee room at the end of the week, and it was expected that he would persist in his refusal to reply to the question. Then, probably he will be cited for contempt, as will be Thomas W. Cunningham of Philadelphia, who would not reveal the source of \$50,000 he contributed to the Varé-Beidleman fund. State's Attorney Crowe of Chicago avoided citation by answering all questions.

SENATOR LA FOLLETTE of Wisconsin took the occasion of Washington's birthday to introduce in the senate this resolution:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the senate that the precedent established by Washington and other Presidents of the United States in retiring from Presidential office after their second term, has become, by universal concurrence, a part of our republican system of government, and that any departure from this time-honored custom would be unwise, unpatriotic and fraught with peril to our free institutions."

In the house Representative Fairchild of New York introduced a resolution for amending the federal Constitution so that "no person shall be eligible to the office of President who has previously served two terms, whether by election or by succession due to the removal, death, resignation or inability of the President where the term of succession shall have continued for a period of two years or more."

Under the terms of the La Follette resolution, Mr. Coolidge would be ineligible for re-election next year. Under the Fairchild plan, he would be eligible.

COMMANDER FRANCESCO DI PINEDO of Italy, for the glory of Fascism, flew across the Atlantic ocean last week. He started from Cape Verde islands, off the coast of Africa, and flew direct to Fernando Noronha island, Brazil. He passed on with the intention of making the main land but encountered heavy seas off the coast and was forced to return to the island. After his plane is repaired Di Pinedo plans to fly to Jamaica, Cuba, New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago and New York.

FOR two days and nights the North Atlantic seaboard was swept by furious winds and tremendous seas, and before the storm subsided it had taken nearly two score lives. Boats were wrecked, beach structures razed and sea walls smashed. Far out at sea the transatlantic shipping was crippled and the great liners were all many hours late.

COAL operators and miners in conference at Miami failed to agree on a wage scale for the bituminous field. The workers consistently refused to consider a reduction of wages. It is supposed generally that this means a strike on April 1, but authorities assert there will not be a complete cessation of production in the field.

OHIO lost one of her most distinguished sons in the death of Judson Harmon, who passed away unexpectedly in Cincinnati at the age of eighty-one years. Mr. Harmon was twice governor of Ohio, once attorney general of the United States, and several times a prominent possibility for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

financing his education is, however, only incidental to his main purpose. Keeler is trying to develop a serum to be used as an antitoxin for rattlesnake bites. Scientists in India had developed a satisfactory serum for use in cobra bite cases, and in South America serums were in use that had reduced the death rate 90 per cent from poison snake bites. No serum, however, had been discovered for use against the rattler. To perfect this serum Keeler began to build up an immunity in the

blood of horses. Injections would be given an animal starting with .005 gram and gradually working over an eight months' period up to 5. When the immunity was reached six quarts were removed and the serum filtered from the blood plasma. From this a preparation is being made for the market.

Keeler sometimes has one of his pets rattle so his audience may recognize the danger signal if they should unfortunately encounter a rattlesnake in the open.

THE MUTUAL TONTINE

By WALTER J. DELANEY

(Copyright by W. G. Chapman.)

WHOEVER devised the Mutual Tontine found ready soil for planting their policies in and about Ruddendale. At the end of thirty years most of the investors in the scheme were "planted" themselves, as the phrase went, and finally there were only two survivors—Adam Warner and Ezra Moss.

Here was the scheme: One hundred subjects were taken at one hundred dollars each. The surviving members of the syndicate, as it might be called, when fifty had died, were to receive six per cent on their investment annually up to their death. The heirs of the final survivor were to receive the amount in the pool at his demise.

All this figured out a liberal commission for the agent or trustee and for the bank where the funds were deposited. After thirty years all but two members of the original group were dead. It was then estimated that the amount the final survivor would receive would be approximately sixty-five thousand dollars.

But Adam Warner and Ezra Moss seemed to have no disposition to die. It was true that both were now over eighty and were not able to go about much. Warner's heir was a grandson, Cyril Warner, in the navy. All the rest of his relatives had died off. The heir or, rather, heiresses of Ezra Moss were his widowed daughter, Mrs. Newell, and her only child, twenty and charming, Marcia.

Mrs. Newell was sordid. She hoped to receive the opulent fund at stake. Mr. Moss had no income except six dollars a year, nothing but his contingent dependency. Mrs. Newell did sewing and Marcia taught school. The returns barely kept the household wheels moving. Again, in her anxiety to do all that was possible for the health and comfort of her father, Mrs. Newell spared no expense, which was a serious drain on their limited revenue.

Old Adam Warner lived alone, except for a faithful man servant almost as aged as himself—David Nack. This man was terribly jealous of his master. As Warner grew old and feeble, he shut out everybody from the house, he devoted all his time and care to Warner.

One morning the neighbors observed Nack come out of the Warner home in a fearful state of excitement. He was wringing his hands and acting altogether perturbed. Bent on his way to town, he paid no attention to anyone until a closer acquaintance than the others halted him.

"Why, David," spoke this man, "whatever is the matter?"

"It's—I mean—nothing!" stammered Nack, like one distracted over some vital matter and seeking to evade any questioning regarding it.

"I'm—I'm in a hurry. Master is—that is, I want to get some medicine for him, so I can't delay."

"You can wait long enough to hear some news that will interest both you and Warner, I reckon," submitted his friend.

"Hey! What's that?" demanded Nack, pricking up his ears.

"Ezra Moss."

"What about him?"

"Dead—he passed away early this morning, suddenly, but painlessly."

"Are you sure? Are you sure!" fairly shouted Nack, all a-tremble.

"Miss Newell just told me, and they've sent for the undertaker."

"Then—then?" quavered Nack.

"Your master wins the Mutual Tontine. Sixty-five thousand dollars—wheh. That will be great news for his grandson, Cyril, in the navy."

Nack turned like a shot, homeward bound.

"Hold on!" challenged his friend—"aren't you going after the medicine?"

"Oh, no. This news of his luck will make my master all well again!"

The news soon spread over the town. All due sympathy was expressed for Mrs. Newell and Marcia, for Mr. Warner had some means and they nothing. Mrs. Newell was bitterly disappointed. Marcia said little, but she was saddened for her mother's sake at the struggle and poverty that loomed ahead for them.

At noon that day a messenger from the bank arrived at the Warner home. He knocked for admission at the well-guarded door. A window was raised overhead.

"Well, what is it?" inquired a cracked feeble voice, and looking up the bank messenger recognized a familiar great shock of snowy white hair and whiskers, a pair of blue goggles, the green and white sweater that Adam Warner always wore.

"Oh, it's you, Mr. Warner," cried the clerk. "Well, I've been sent by the bank to officially notify you that,

as the last survivor of the Mutual Tontine fund, it is at your order."

"Ye-es, I heard that Moss was dead. Outlived him, eh? and me nigh two years older! Well, I'll come or send for the money tomorrow or next day."

Two days passed by. The morning of the third saw David Nack rushing out of the Warner home to shout out distractedly to his neighbors that his master had just died. The statement was soon verified. Scores viewed the remains. By a strange coincidence the funerals of the two veterans happened within the same week. It was announced that the will of Adam Warner left everything to his grandson, Cyril, who had been telegraphed to and who arrived in time for the obsequies.

He was a well-looking, intelligent young man and made no parade of his wealth. He passed most of his time in the house with old Nack, but one day walking in the village quite eagerly approached Mrs. Newell, who was a little ahead of him with Marcia.

"Madam," he spoke, lifting his cap courteously, "I wish to suggest—"

But Mrs. Newell, still bitter over her great money loss, gave him an icy stare that drove him back dismayed.

"My mother is not feeling herself, sir," Marcia spoke, and in the accompanying glance of regret the embarrassed young man traced a note of apology that drew him towards this possessor of the fairest face he had ever seen.

Village gossips now had it that the Newells were going to remove to the city, where mother and daughter might find more profitable work. It was also rumored that young Cyril Warner was negotiating to buy his release from naval service, preparatory to going in to business with the capital he had inherited.

There was a knock at the door of the Newell home two evenings later. Mrs. Newell glanced through the open window to make out the visitor.

"The idea!" she crimsoned, confronting her daughter.

"Who is it, mamma?" inquired Marcia.

"That audacious Warner! Don't answer."

"But it may be a matter of business. Come, mamma, do not let an unreasonable prejudice influence you against this young man, whom people tell me is a fair-minded person," and she proceeded to the door and quite pleasantly invited the caller into the parlor.

"You will pardon my presumption in calling," Cyril Warner addressed Mrs. Newell, his face very pale, his compressed lips telling of a vast internal struggle, "but I am compelled to come. The other day I wished to suggest to you that we divide the fund money. Today, and he placed a black stout wallet on a table, "it is yours—all of it."

"Ours?" cried the astounded lady.

"Yes, madam, by all the rights of justice. Not one penny belongs to me. Good day, madam. You will find sixty-five thousand dollars in that wallet."

He was at the door, down the steps, striding away along the graveled path. Mrs. Newell was too overcome to follow. Not so Marcia. She reached him, placed a detaining hand upon his arm.

"You must tell us more," she said decisively, "or we shall return the money to you."

Cyril Warner hesitated. Then it seemed as if he allowed Marcia to lead him to a rustic bench. With averted eyes he told her that his grandfather had died twenty-four hours before her own, and David Nack, through mistaken fidelity to the family, had concealed the fact and had impersonated the dead man when the bank messenger came.

The ready, practical mind of Marcia devised a way of keeping this secret. There must be a division of the money. To this Cyril would not consent.

But love untied the knot, separated the confused strands, only to bring those two together in closer bonds, and husband and wife alone knew the real merits of the settlement of the Mutual Tontine fund.

Time Well Spent

A great king asked some of his courtiers how they had passed the time in the prisons into which their youthful pranks had sometimes led them.

One replied that he had learned mathematics, another drawing, a third to play the lute.

"And you," resumed the monarch, turning to one who kept silence, "what did you learn in your prison?"

"Sir, I learned never to go there again."

RUSSIA'S "LITTLE PARADISE"



Russian Recruits in Crimea.

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

WHILE the thermometer was 40 degrees below zero in Moscow recently, almond trees were flowering in the Crimea on the Russian shore of the Black sea. This contrast emphasizes Russia's vastness as well as it brings to notice a delightful spot of the huge country little known in its details to Americans. Yet at the same time, it is a land with certain aspects known to every school child. It is the land of the Cimmerians about whom Homer sang in the "Odyssey" and from whom the peninsula takes its name; the land of the Crimean war, the siege of Sevastopol, and the "Charge of the Light Brigade"; the land in which Florence Nightingale first caused efficient, ordered mercy to have a part in war.

The Crimea is known as "The Little Paradise" to the Tatars, last of the many races to overrun the peninsula before the land fell under the sway of the Muscovite. A traveler journeying from the north is likely to accept this appellation, if at all, with a strong mental reservation as he crosses the almost desert-like plains of northern Crimea; but once over the mountains that rim the southern shore he will approve the description with enthusiasm. There nature has made a wonderful garden spot, the Riviera of Russia, a combination of sea, mountains and riotous verdure that really vies with its famed Italian counterpart in the days when czarhood was in flower.

Though a part of what has come to be looked upon on the whole as "cold Russia," the southern shore of the Crimea brought to the old empire a touch of the tropics. On the mountain slopes and in the sheltered valleys grow grapes, figs, olives and all the tender fruits; magnolias, bays, and myrtles; and a profusion of wild flowers and grasses. That the delights of its mild climate were discovered early is testified by the ruins of Greek, Byzantine, and Italian architecture which are to be found among the mosques of the later Tatars, the palaces of the Russian Imperial family and nobility, and the magnificent modern hotels of the pleasure towns to which the prosperous classes of Russia flocked before the World War. Yalta, in those carefree days, was Russia's Nice, Newport and Miami rolled into one.

Many Fascinating Features.

With a climate that borrows good features from Florida and southern California and had ones from many places, the Crimea is one of the most fascinating bits of territory between Portugal and Cochinchina. Its populace a congress of races, its industries ranging from the growing of subtropical fruits and the housing of Russia's elite as they fled from the cold, to the herding of sheep and the growing of grain, it was a place of many sided activities.

As the men of wealth of America have their winter homes in Florida and those of western Europe have theirs along the Riviera, the people of position in Russia had their country seats in the Crimea. And beautiful places they were, for in Russia the rich were very rich.

The peninsula is occupied by approximately 900,000 people, mostly Tatars, with a scattering of Russians, Greeks, Germans and Jews. Cleanliness and morality are said to be proverbial traits of the Crimean Tatars, who have been undergoing the influences of russification for several generations. They have taken up vine culture, fruit growing, and kindred occupations with a zeal seldom equalled east of the Aegean.

The Crimea is a peninsula that barely escaped being an island. It hangs from the mainland of South Russia down into the Black sea, like a gigantic watch fob shaped like a flounder. It is attached by the narrow ribbon of the Isthmus of Perekop, a strip of land only three-quarters of a mile wide and

only a few feet above sea level. On one side is the Black sea and on the other the stagnant, shallow, melodorous waters of the Sivatch, or Putrid sea, a lagoon of the Sea of Azov. This is the only broken natural land-connection between the mainland and the Crimea, but a few miles to the east a narrow part of the Putrid sea has been bridged by the railroad which enters the peninsula.

Still farther eastward a peculiar natural formation, a mere threadlike causeway of sand known as the Tongue of Arabat, stretches for more than fifty miles from the mainland to the base of the "founder's tail" that forms the easternmost extension of the Crimea. A canal has been cut through this spit of sand near its northern end to connect the waters of the Sea of Azov and those of the Putrid sea. The trenching or mining of these three narrow land-entrances to the Crimea would be a relatively simple matter from the point of view of military engineering.

The greatest width of the Crimea north and south is 115 miles, and its greatest length from "head" to "tail" is 225 miles. It contains about 9,700 square miles, and is thus approximately the size of the state of Vermont or the island of Sicily.

The Crimea was conquered by Catharine the Great of Russia in 1771 and remained a part of the Russian empire until that political entity's collapse in 1917. The bulk of the population remains Tatar, though there is an admixture of both Greek and Italian blood in the nominally Tatar people.

In the Crimean war fought by England, France and Turkey against Russia the final test of strength came at Sevastopol, on the west coast of the Crimea. Here the factors of unlimited resources operated in the allies' favor. Through their command of the sea they could secure everything needed, while the Russians could bring up their supplies only across the barren steppes, whose highways were marked at every step by the dead and the dying, both man and beast.

Sevastopol and Its Palaces.

It is estimated that 50,000 British soldiers lie buried in the cemetery outside of Sevastopol. Before the World War this vast City of the Dead was watched over by a German who could speak no English, but who was proud of his privilege of guarding the ashes of those who fell at Balaklava and Inkerman.

Sevastopol remained until 1917 a great military post for the old Russian regime, and it was as well the home port of the Russian Black sea fleet. From there, according to cherished imperial dreams, was to go forth, on the Russian counterpart of "Der Tag," the forces that would wrest the Bosphorus and Dardanelles from the Turk, and place the cross of St. George over Constantinople and the Cross of Christ over Sancto Sophia.

The imperial Large palace, to which it was once decided to send the late czar, is situated at Livadia, surrounded by a magnificent park. It is of recent construction, and was completed only about fifteen years ago. Hard by is the simply constructed Small palace, in an upper room of which Alexander III died. In no other country in the world was the reigning ruler possessed of so many lands or such extensive properties as was the case in Russia.

Southern Crimea is a garden land. Its fruits were famous in the northern Russian markets, and from its grapes a full-bodied, spicy wine was made. Vineyards covered more than 19,000 acres of the Crimea, and from them about 3,500,000 gallons of fine-quality wine was made each year. The waters around the peninsula abound in delicate fish, such as red and gray mullet, herring, mackerel, turbot, sole, plaice, whiting, bream, haddock, pilchard, a species of pike, whitefish, eels, salmon and sturgeon.