

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## DOINGS OF THE WEEK

### NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

#### \$700,000,000 Surplus for Fiscal Year in Sight, According to Mellon.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY Mellon has officially admitted that the largest reduction in the public debt on record may be accomplished in the present fiscal year ending June 30 next.

A surplus considerably in excess of \$500,000,000, representing the difference between ordinary receipts and ordinary expenditures, is assured. Heretofore, while members of congress and others have insisted that the half-billion mark would be reached, Mr. Mellon has been unwilling to boost his estimate beyond the \$383,000,000 total announced by the budget bureau last December.

That the surplus will actually exceed \$600,000,000, and may go as high as \$700,000,000, is now asserted by some of the experts whose estimates have usually been considerably above those of the treasury and whose predictions have been made good in previous years.

A surplus of \$500,000,000 will mean an actual debt reduction for the fiscal year 1927 in excess of \$1,000,000,000. Debt retirement through the statutory sinking fund will amount to nearly \$340,000,000 and retirements from payments from foreign nations will represent more than \$230,000,000. Debt retirements otherwise than by means of the surplus will amount to about \$570,000,000. Adding a \$500,000,000 surplus to this amount will mean a total reduction in the public debt of \$1,070,000,000.

The debt reduction has exceeded \$1,000,000,000 in only three of the last seven years, the highest total being in 1920, when the debt was cut down by \$1,185,000,000. In 1922 the debt reduction amounted to \$1,014,000,000, and in 1924 to \$1,098,000,000. The debt was reduced in the fiscal year 1925 by \$735,000,000 and in 1926 by \$873,000,000. The total debt on December 31, 1926, was \$18,975,349,765.

If the surplus runs as high as \$615,000,000, and many financial experts believe it may, the record debt reduction of the year 1920 will be equaled. A surplus above this amount will mean the breaking of all records in annual debt retirement.

While the treasury still lacks accurate totals on income-tax receipts, it was indicated that at least \$590,000,000 has been collected. This amount would represent an increase of \$85,000,000 over March income tax payments in 1926. Complete reports from the internal revenue collectors may bring the total up above \$600,000,000.

ON MARCH 16 Harry F. Sinclair, millionaire oil magnate, was found guilty of contempt of the United States senate by a jury in the District of Columbia Supreme court. The case grew out of the senate investigation of the Teapot dome oil scandal three years ago, when Sinclair refused to answer interrogations of the senate committee. Found guilty on all four counts of the indictments against him, Sinclair faces a jail sentence of from one month to a year in the District jail and a fine of from \$100 to \$1,000. The sentence has not been imposed, pending the disposition of the motion for a new trial made by Sinclair's counsel, and its execution will be further delayed by the appeal which will be taken by the District Court of Appeals, and ultimately to the United States Supreme court, according to defense attorneys, if the new trial is denied.

Sinclair, whose contempt trial is the first of the criminal proceedings growing out of the oil investigation to be decided, was indicted under Section 102 of the Revised Statutes, the same section which will be invoked against Samuel Insull, the Chicago utility magnate; his attorney, Daniel Schuyler of Chicago, and other witnesses who refused to testify before the Reed slash-fund committee, if they are ever brought to book.

Sinclair, refusing to answer the committee's questions on the advice of his counsel, denied the pertinency of the queries, asserted that answer might jeopardize the outcome of litigation in which his company—the Mammoth Oil company—was engaged with the government and denied the authority of the committee to question him on matters which had become the subject of litigation.

Justice Hitz in his charge warned the jury that the pertinency of the questions had already been decided by the court as a matter of law and that neither the fact that Sinclair, in refusing to testify, acted on the advice of counsel or may have believed he had a legal right to refuse if he wished, could be considered as a defense for the oil man.

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THE first meeting of the new federal radio commission was held at Washington on March 15. One of the first acts of the new commission was to announce dates, March 29 to April 1, for public hearings, the purpose of which will be to obtain methods of reducing radio interference. A tentative schedule of topics for discussion includes proposals for widening the broadcasting bands of wave lengths, a limitation of power, and reduction in frequency separation, simultaneous broadcasting with the same frequency, a division of time broadcasting stations, a consolidation of broadcasting service and a limitation of the number of stations. The hearings will not be open for individual claims or complaints.

BECAUSE he published an article in the Christian Enquirer declaring that the God of the Bible "preferred the savory smell of roast cutlets to the odors of boiled cabbage," Ernest V. Sterry at Toronto, Canada, was found guilty by a Canadian jury of blasphemous libel under an ancient British statute making it a crime to criticize the Christian God. Sterry's defense was that he was merely trying to liberate public opinion and that he thought his article would clear the controversy over the personality of the Deity.

A UNITED STATES Supreme court decision of considerable importance to many communities, especially in the southern states, was handed down on March 14. The court held as unconstitutional the Louisiana state and New Orleans municipal segregation codes under which negroes are barred from residence in predominantly white communities where a majority of the white residents have not given their consent in writing.

PREMIER MUSSOLINI has undertaken to organize a vast insurance organization to guarantee long-time credits extended by Italian manufacturers to foreign purchasers of Italian-made merchandise.

It is estimated that before the plans can be fully carried out the new credit insurance institute must have a fully paid up capital of \$10,000,000,000—nearly \$450,000,000. The field of operation is so large it is thought this money will be easily found. Fascist circles insist that all the money invested in this organization should be Italian, thus freeing it from any foreign influence whatever.

In conjunction with the credit insurance the government plans to station able business men abroad to keep in closest touch with market conditions throughout the world and to assist in placing large accounts for Italian firms. These "observation posts" would maintain constant touch with the homeland through the consular service and other agencies.

Italian industry is in a serious condition. Many factories are closed or running on short time or with limited crews. It is estimated that 250,000 people are out of work, or five times as many as could not find employment a few months ago. It is to remedy this condition and to insure an increase in Italian markets that the Mussolini government is making strenuous efforts to find foreign markets.

THE completion of the Moffat road tunnel through the Rocky mountains near Denver may bring about a new grouping of railroads and produce one of the most gigantic railroad combinations in this country. The tunnel is now nearing completion. When it is ready for use it will mean the short-

ening of the distance between Denver and Salt Lake City by approximately 300 miles, and will also eliminate much of the heavy grades. The tunnel, while built by the state of Colorado, is under lease by the Moffat line, a road that of itself is of no importance except that it controls this new way to the West. A fairly well-founded story current in Denver is to the effect that lines are being laid for the linking up by control of traffic arrangements of the Burlington, the Denver & Rio Grande Western and the Western Pacific with the Moffat road. If such a combination of interests should be effected, it would constitute a part of the Burlington, Great Northern and Northern Pacific combination. If in addition to this federation of northern and central transcontinental routes, there is anything in the reports of Burlington inspiration behind the gradual linking up of short lines from the Ohio river to New Orleans and the Gulf, there would be in prospect a rail system of a magnitude never imagined before in America.

UNITED STATES SENATOR WILLIAM H. KING of Utah, on a visit to Porto Rico and other Caribbean islands, proposed to visit the republic of Haiti, but the Haitian government refused him permission to land. The Haitian government held it was free to bar Mr. King, as he was making the visit as a private citizen, not as a senator. Senator King has been outspoken in his criticism of the present regime in Haiti headed by President Luis Borno. The Haitian administration is under the guidance of the American government, represented by a force of marines. The State department made an effort, through Brig. Gen. John H. Russell, American high commissioner in Haiti, to exert its influence in an effort to have the order changed, but without success, the President of the republic claiming that the presence of Senator King would be a menace to the peace and prosperity of the people because of the feeling of the public in relation to his efforts to recall the American troops from Haiti. Senator King visited Santo Domingo, but did not make any effort to land at Puerto Prince. The senator said he abandoned his plans to visit Haiti, as he feared his visit there might cause a clash between the American military forces and the people.

THE libel suit of Aaron Sapiro against Henry Ford for \$1,000,000 because of the charges it is claimed were made in the Dearborn Independent, owned by Mr. Ford, that Sapiro was the head of a Jewish combination organized for the purpose of defrauding the American farmers, opened at Detroit on March 14, and it is expected to continue for approximately 60 days. Attorneys for Sapiro stated in their opening arguments that testimony covering 141 points would be introduced.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE has indicated that the United States government will not consider the establishment of a protectorate over the government of Nicaragua as requested by President Diaz. The President is desirous of encouraging peaceful conditions in Central America, but feels that to take on a permanent obligation to maintain order in Nicaragua would be too much.

The proposed alliance is described as somewhat similar to that entered into between the United States and Haiti in 1915. It would allow this government to intervene in case of revolution to maintain order, and give the United States limited supervision over Nicaraguan conditions. Another condition of the Diaz proposal is that a big loan should be made to Nicaragua.

THE Mexican government is trying to induce the American government to await the decision of the Mexican Supreme court on the question of the constitutionality of the Mexican land laws before lifting the arms embargo. American oil men have asked for injunctions against the enforcement of the law that would deprive them of the petroleum interests, and a decision in this case is expected within a short time. It is intimated that President Calles may find this decision an easy way out of the difficulty, as the courts may decide that the laws creating the difficulties are unconstitutional.

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### MARTHA VESPER'S GOODNESS

(© by D. J. Walsh.)

MARTHA VESPER was a good woman. Most folks thought that Martha herself did not know just how good she was, but they knew. They called her the salt of the earth, the highest praise that they could bestow.

Martha had lived on that street, in that house all her life. Her life was known through all its phases—childhood, girlhood, womanhood. And it was all goodness, clear through.

It was no wonder, therefore, that Martha thus praised and considered, should begin to feel that perhaps her goodness did set her a little apart from other folks, good though they were. Take Myra Jones and Mrs. Pettigrew now. They were good women, but they couldn't hold a candle to Martha Vesper. She was so good that she was almost famous.

Besides being good Martha was happy, which doesn't always follow in spite of the proverb, "Be good and you'll be happy." At seventeen Martha had married Asa Vesper because she loved him so much she couldn't live without him. In consequence she had always been a contented wife. For Asa was forehanded. He earned money and, what was still better, saved money. They never lacked. Their two sons had received good educations and been started on the way to success on their own. Charlie was in Oregon, Edward in a near-by city. Both were unmarried. Both still thought their mother the finest woman on earth.

One afternoon as she sat putting a patch on a pair of nicely laundered overalls that belonged to her husband, Mrs. Birch, her next-door neighbor, came bounding in.

"Sick!" demanded Mrs. Birch, who was as stout and blowsy as Martha was slender and silver-colored.

"Mercy, no! Never felt better in my life," replied Martha.

"Then why didn't you go to the sewing meeting at Fanny Fitch's?"

"I forgot all about it!"—Martha glanced at the clock. "I can get there yet just before it closes—I must."

She sprang to her feet, snatched her shawl and coat and flew, with a swift thank to Mrs. Birch for reminding her.

"Well, here's Martha!" cried Julie Breen as Martha entered Mrs. Fitch's parlor, where a group of women sat sewing. "Better late than never—sit right down here. We've been hemming sheets for the Piper family—unbleached muslin. They're all done, so you're out of that, Martha. But you can take 'em home and bleach 'em out."

"Glad to. Unbleached muslin bleached makes fine durable sheets. I know for I've used them. In fact, I've just made a few new ones and I'll bleach them all together. Might as well," Martha said with enthusiasm. "When I get through bleaching them you'll see. They'll be whiter than snow."

Martha took the sheets home in a large parcel. Tomorrow she would get them on the line. But the morrow broke black with an autumnal storm which raged for three successive days. Then came a telegram from Edward. He was coming home for the week-end. Martha had to get ready for his visit. She baked apple pie, ginger bread, rusk, snow bread, a chicken and a squash. Then when Edward came there was no time for anything. He had brought his car—and his chum, a young fellow of his own age who worked at the same place. Between motoring and feeding her guests Martha had her hands full. She packed a snack for them to take back to their lodgings—all the good things that had not been consumed. Then she was so tired that she simply had to rest.

It was more than a week before she remembered the sheets.

She did not go to the next sewing meeting because Asa had a cold and she never left him when he was not feeling well. But she appeared at the third meeting. Julia Breen then read a letter of thanks from Mrs. Piper. The sheets had filled a long-felt want. Members of the society smiled at their good Martha. But as she glanced across the room she saw Mina Burton looking at her with a curious expression. From that instant the memory of that look of Mina's weighed uncomfortably with her.

After the meeting Mina attached herself to Martha and walked home with her.

"How did those sheets of yours turn out, Martha?" she asked.

"Fine," Martha answered promptly. "You could hardly tell them from my best ones which I keep on the same shelf. No wonder Mrs. Piper was pleased. I should have been in her place."

Mina was silent.

"Don't you think Mina Burton is

getting a little peculiar?" Martha asked Mrs. Birch.

"Is she? Hadn't noticed."

"She certainly is," returned Martha with emphasis.

Time of full house cleaning arrived with warm, bright weather made for the purpose. Martha always cleaned her own house. She loved to do it. Twice a year she took opportunity to look over her precious stores.

"Shan't need any sheets," she thought, as she counted out the snowy pile. A mystified look came over her face. She began to lay one fragrant fold upon the other. There were four sheets she couldn't account for. Was she getting forgetful? Well her list would tell the story.

She got out her little book. No, there was no mistake. She had entered the two new pairs she had bleached at the same time she bleached all those sheets for Mrs. Piper. Every one of her sheets was accounted for. But here were four extra sheets—

Oh, dear! The door had opened. It was Mrs. Birch, who entered as she pleased. Martha turned from the open shelves of her press. Her startled glance revealed the angry red of Mrs. Birch's expressive face.

"Martha Vesper," panted Mrs. Birch, "do you know what Annie Piper is saying about you? I'd never stand it if I were you. After the way you bleached those sheets for her, too. That's the way. Try to be kind to a person and they'll fling it back into your face. I'll never do another thing for that family as long as I live. A good woman like you to be so magnified."

Martha had turned pale.

"Wait!" Her throat was dry.

"What does Annie say?"

"She says," ripped out Mrs. Birch, "that you kept back four sheets that the society intended she should have."

"Four sheets!" Martha shut her eyes.

"You make her take back every word," stormed Mrs. Birch.

Martha lifted her hand weakly to her forehead.

"I—can't," she breathed. "I've got the sheets—there—four of them. Count them yourself, Maria. Then, as the full meaning of the affair smote her, she burst into laughter.

"I am certainly taken down a peg this time," she gasped between sobs of merriment. "Martha Vesper—stealing Annie Piper's unbleached sheets!" It was too much. And after a long stare, Mrs. Birch joined Martha in a perfect gale of fun.

An hour later Martha took the sheets to Mrs. Piper. But somehow she felt that she had not made things right, especially with Mina Burton. Mina would keep her own opinion to the end. Even when she explained at the next meeting of the sewing society, Martha could see that Mina looked down her nose.

It was funny—the funniest thing that could ever happen. For it proved that even the best people are never free from the breath of scandal.

Spanish Languages

Three languages are spoken in Spain, all largely based on the ancient Latin. The one generally known as Spanish and which is used throughout the greater part of South America, is the Castilian, which is spoken by more than two-thirds of the population of Spain. It has been called "the noblest daughter of Latin." Besides its words of Latin origin, the Castilian vocabulary contains a large number of Arabic words, chiefly connected with agriculture or science; Greek words, mostly of learned and modern introduction; with traces of Basque and Gothic.

Britain's Forward Step

Until the beginning of this year no child born out of wedlock in Great Britain could be later legitimated by the marriage of the parents. On January 1, 1927, an act came into force making this possible, except in cases where either parent was married to a third person at the time the child was born. Legitimation dates only from the time the act came into force, even though the marriage occurred earlier. Legitimated children are to have the same rights of inheritance as children born in wedlock, and they have the right to have their births registered.

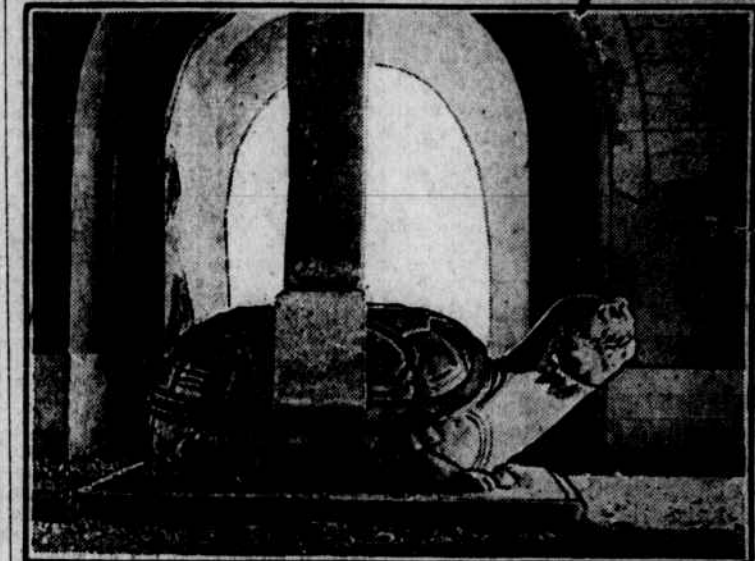
Sea Superstitions

A bee, or a small land bird, coming on board ship is a good omen, although ill-fortune is pretty sure to follow the alighting of a hawk, owl or crow in the rigging. Most fishermen believe that a smart blow on the head of a fish that has been separated from the body will kill the latter which still retains muscular motion.

Question for Geese

Northwest Alabamian asks its readers a number of questions to test their intelligence, but omits one we have long wished to see answered: "Why do geese walk in a row?"—Guntersville (Ala.) Democrat.

## About Shanghai



Stone Turtle at the Ming Tombs, Nanking.

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

WHILE the eyes of the western world have been turned during recent weeks toward Shanghai, headquarters for white soldiers and sailors and marines in China, the footsteps of thousands of refugees, white and yellow, have been directed toward that same city, their hope of safety. Kiangsu, the province in which Shanghai lies, is one of the most densely populated political units in the world. It is only slightly larger than Indiana, and even under normal conditions ten times as many people live there as inhabit the Hoosier state. Chinese from all parts of the republic, speaking half a dozen different dialects, and foreigners from all corners of the globe make up the conglomerate mass of humanity.

Even the country districts are so congested that the largest farms in the province are little more than small family truck gardens to the American farmer. They seldom cover more than three or four acres.

Kiangsu is the pioneer province of railroading in the Celestial empire. The first road was built in 1876 from Shanghai to Woosung, a distance of 12 miles. But Kiangsu owes much of its development to its water routes before the railroad came, particularly to the Yangtze river and the Grand canal that flows nearly the entire length of the province.

For hundreds of years the canal was filled with shipping and was the only means of communication between the north and the south; but today much of the canal is in ruins, due largely to the construction of a railroad along the route and the development of Kiangsu river for navigation. Hundreds of small canals branch off into the back country. They are used to irrigate farms and as highways for most of the roads outside the large cities are wheelbarrow tracks.

Shanghai is Big and Busy.

Nearly 2,000,000 of Kiangsu's people live in Shanghai. Thousands of the population are employed in the city's thriving industries. There are more than fifty cotton mills and numerous silk, rice and flour mills, and hundreds of large factories producing matches, cigarettes, jewelry, pottery and many other articles.

Lying in a protected location 12 miles up the Whangpoo river, Shanghai is one of the finest commercial ports in China. As one approaches the harbor he sees nearly ten miles of docks stretching along the river front. Huge ocean-going vessels from all parts of the world come and go almost in a steady stream, fast motor boats dart here and there through the harbor, and the shipping industry and factories along the river front roar with activity. One could easily imagine himself entering a busy New England port if it were not for the sing-song chatter of orientals emanating from Chinese junks and sampans that dot the water and cluster about the docks.

This hybrid city of the East and West is normally what many a traveler finds Paris is supposed to be but isn't—perpetually gay and carefree. Europeans and Americans, forced by business or government assignments to live there on the other side of the world in a none too kindly climate, seem with one accord to have determined to make the experience as pleasant as possible. White men's working hours might have been framed by a visionary Socialist for the year 2000. In the piping times of peace many offices open at ten o'clock, grant a rest period from twelve to two, and close at four so that the harassed merchant and banker and clerk may hurry away to club or casino or tennis court, golf links or houseboat for what Robert Louis Stevenson called "the real business of life."

The Bund, the waterfront thoroughfare of occidental Shanghai, is normally crowded with prosperous, hurried Westerners; and Bubbling

Spring road of an afternoon is thronged with stylishly dressed men and women of leisure and fashionable equipages that would do credit to Fifth avenue, the Champs Elysee or the Ring strasse in the days of Vienna's glory. The city is thoroughly cosmopolitan. Perhaps no other city of the world surpasses it in this respect except Cairo.

The Foreign Settlements.

There are two Shanghais: the native city, and the foreign concessions. Shanghai was one of the first Chinese cities to be thrown open to western trade, one of the five "treaty ports" established in 1842. British merchants who moved in during the next few years obtained a concession to manage their municipal affairs in their settlement. The French and American residents joined in the arrangement, but later the French set up a municipality of their own which is maintained separately today. Residents of other nationalities have thrown in their lot with the British and Americans, and today about 20 nations have arrangements with China in connection with trade and extraterritorial rights in Shanghai.

After riding two hours north of Shanghai by railroad, through fertile flat country to the Grand canal, one finds himself among five million more people of Kiangsu within a radius of 40 miles of Soochow. Many of the people in the outlying districts are engaged in poultry raising and even the city people take pride in their flocks, particularly ducks. Millions of Kiangsu eggs that are not locally consumed or shipped fresh are dried or frozen, and shipped all over the world.

On the west of the city are a hundred beautiful lakes and the Great lake—sixty miles wide in some places—is just over the beautiful low ridge of hills on the east, one of the few hilly spots in fertile, flat Kiangsu.

Other Large Cities Near By.

For centuries Soochow has been the principal Chinese silk market. But its business is not confined to silk and poultry, for in the bazaars that line the streets and even surround the temple of Buddha, one can buy anything from a bird cage to an outdoor haircut, or a good-for-everything pill.

Nearly all Soochow streets that are not Venetian style are narrow and are monopolized by rickshaws and wheelbarrows. If one does not ride one is apt to get poked by the bars of a rickshaw.

Nanking, Wushu, Chinkiang and Yangchow are also thickly populated districts. Except Nanking these cities are all on the Grand canal. Each of them boast more than 100,000 inhabitants. Nanking is the capital of Kiangsu and was capital of the empire in the Ming dynasty. It is the largest walled city in the world, but only a small portion of the city is now within the 21-mile barrier.

Nanking is not comparable to Shanghai as a commercial center, but it boasts its educational facilities and the development of Chinese scholars.

Visitors to Nanking are at once attracted to the tomb of the first emperor of the Ming dynasty. An avenue, a mile long, approaching the tomb, commands a splendid view of the city. At one end of the avenue is a tower containing a large black marble turtle, the Chinese symbol of long life. On its back is a marble tablet, eulogizing the emperor who is buried at the other end of the avenue. Between the tower and the tomb the avenue is lined on both side with sculptures of elephants, camels, lions and tigers, facing one another, and now and then one sees an enormous statue of a great warrior standing as a sentinel guarding the funeral way. The tomb and avenue are decaying and the marble statues present a peculiar sight standing in a row in the middle of a field. Stones are piled high on the elephants' backs, thrown there by Chinese who believe if the stones thrown remain on the elephants, they will bring good luck.

### Heads National Body to Aid Hog Breeders

The swine industry of the United States is to have its "Judge Landis"—an administrator to guide a nationwide movement to promote the production of better hogs, it became known when A. F. Sinex of Tama, Iowa, president of the National Swine Growers' association, announced the appointment of Robert J. Evans of Chicago, known as "dean of hog breeders," as national administrator

of the swine extension plan to mobilize farmers, breeders, packers, retailers, veterinarians, feed manufacturers, agricultural college professors, county agents and consumers to improve the quality of pork.

Mr. Evans, who has been authorized to open headquarters in the Pedigree Record building, Union stock yards, Chicago, has only recently returned from Tama.

"The hog population decreased from 68,189,000 head in 1923 to 52,536,000 on January 1 of this year," said Mr.