

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

War Activities in China Focus Interest of the World.

THE killing of a number of American and British citizens by Bolshevik Chinese mobs during the week ending March 26 has brought the crisis in China to the verge of war. Ultimatum have been delivered by the American and British commanders demanding that the lives of their nationals be protected. Failure to comply will mean that Nanking will be treated as a military area subject to bombardment and attack by the American and British forces. Following the fall of Shanghai to the Cantonese army the armies of the north China war lord evacuated the cities of Nanking and Chinkiang without a fight, but following the occupation of Nanking by the Cantonese the south China forces opened fire, on March 24, on groups of foreigners concentrated there awaiting embarkation on American destroyers, killing some Americans and some British. There were 155 Americans included in the group of foreigners subjected to the Chinese bombardment, which was at once repelled by both American and British warships. The foreigners were concentrated for evacuation on a hill in the northern part of the city, where the Standard Oil company plant is located. The shelling by the southern irregulars began shortly before 4 p. m. A few minutes later the United States destroyers Noa and Preston, which had 145 American women and children aboard, and the British cruiser Emerald shelled the area surrounding the hill. With the object of opening the way for the immediate evacuation of the foreigners, combined American and British forces were landed.

America, a number of European nations and Japan were represented by land and naval contingents at Shanghai when the Cantonese army captured the native city on March 20. The main force of soldiers and marines landed for the protection of the United States marines and 15,000 British soldiers. To these were added small numbers of French and Japanese sailors and marines. The fall of the city was followed by a general strike of factory workers in all industries involving several thousand workers, bringing with it a reign of terror throughout both the native and foreign sections. The Central Labor union, immediately following the declaration of a general strike, issued pistols and ammunition to 500 workmen, who immediately went gunning for British troops and police and evacuating northern soldiers.

Because of the presence of American and British troops in the foreign section disorders there were minimized to a large extent, but disturbances raged in the adjoining native areas. There was constant sniping from alleyways and second story windows. In the northern, or Chapel, district of the city, adjacent to the railway station, laborers attempted to avenge themselves upon a force of about 3,000 northern soldiers, who battled for the small district, unable to escape.

American marines guarded the Markham road bridge leading from the native city into the foreign settlement, and prevented the Cantonese army from entering the foreign section of the city. This bridge is a strategic point in the factory district, particularly susceptible to labor agitations, and an important thoroughfare, the scene of many conflicts in the past between the Chinese and foreigners. At this point one American was wounded.

By March 23 Admiral C. S. Williams, in command of the United States naval forces, and Colonel Hill, in command of the American marines, had rearranged their forces to meet any recrudescence of the rioting, looting, burning, and killing which raged in the native section for 36 hours after its fall to the south China nationalists. The American officials expressed confidence that the Cantonese regulars, then holding the native city, would prevent any new disturbances.

Mrs. Henderson Wins "Embassy Row" Fight

Once again Mrs. John B. Henderson, frequently referred to as the "dowager of embassy row" in the capital, has won her fight against the commercial interests that seek to strip the purely residential atmosphere from a part of Sixteenth street, which is one of Washington's most fashionable boulevards.

As a result of her efforts the District of Columbia zoning commission

A BOMB burst in the European situation on March 19 when Italy notified the British government of its anxiety over the claimed massing of Yugo-Slavian troops on the Albanian frontier. At the same time Italy warned France against supplying Yugo-Slavia with war materials, and claimed to have evidence that France was secretly aiding the Slavs in preparing for an invasion of Albania which is a pawn in the struggle between Italy and Yugo-Slavia for dominance in the Balkans and the new revolution, if it comes, will represent the Yugo-Slavs' effort to secure the overlordship of Albania, which now is held by Italy.

England took immediate steps to prevent the possibility of war in the Balkans. The English government sided with Italy, and for the first time since the visit of Sir Austen Chamberlain to Leghorn, Italy, the British and French policies were brought into sharp conflict through the Italo-French struggle for Balkan supremacy. Since last October the British and Italian policies in the Mediterranean and Balkans have been absolutely in agreement, but the Belgrade gesture was the first open indication of the extent to which the British support of Italy goes.

The amount of publicity given the incident cleared the atmosphere, and by the end of the week the war cloud that had so suddenly arisen had almost entirely disappeared.

THE sessions of the preparatory disarmament commissions opened at Geneva on March 21. At the first sessions Lord Robert Cecil submitted the British draft of the proposed convention for reducing armaments which tacitly supported the objections raised in the United States memorandum against the French theory of the "potentiality of war," elaborated on by M. Paul-Boncour, which includes all the industrial, financial, economic, and agricultural resources of the nations in a labyrinthine complexity to achieve disarmament.

The British proposal leaves the figures on the sizes of armies, navies, and air forces blank, but Lord Cecil intimated he favors basing a military organization on population and the proportion of the existent forces with due account for the geographical location.

On the 23rd M. Paul-Boncour appealed to Hugh Gibson, the American delegate to the conference, to accept the French proposals for a disarmament treaty. He pointed out that it provides that the United States, as well as Russia, be represented on the permanent disarmament commission, although America is not a member of the league. The French plan proposes the junking of the Washington treaty by providing a global allocation of tonnage for navies, permitting each power to build whatever category of craft it pleases. The proposition provides for the allotment of a maximum cubic centimetre and amount of horsepower to be developed by motors of airplanes. It also provides for a permanent disarmament committee sitting at Geneva to control disarmament everywhere.

All the great powers, the United States, Great Britain, Japan, and Italy, oppose the French plan, leaving only the little entente supporting it.

Count von Bernstorff, the German delegate, demanded that the league disarmament commission proceed to execute the Versailles treaty and the league covenant reducing all armaments.

"The states already disarmed by the treaties are entitled to insist on general disarmament," he said. "Germany now is a member of the league and enjoys all the rights of the organization. We anticipate an epoch when the only war possible is the league against an aggressor, and no state should be permitted to be strong enough to defy all the members. Germany can support only a practical solution—reduction to a general level for all armaments."

A FEDERAL court decision rendered in New York on March 23 holds it unlawful to possess grape juice that has fermented and contains a sufficient amount of alcohol to make it intoxicating. Quoting section 29, title 2, of the national prohibition act, Judge Hand read:

"The penalties provided in this act against the manufacture of liquor

rejected a petition by business men to establish stores on the thoroughfare and in so doing added another chapter to the struggle that has been waged over the street.

Mrs. Henderson, widow of the late Senator Henderson of Missouri, lives in a luxurious home known as "The Castle" at Sixteenth street and Florida avenue. For nearly a score of years she has kept the street, on which many of the expensive embassies of many of the pure foreign nations are located, of a purely residential character.

without a permit shall not apply to a person who manufactures nonintoxicating cider and fruit juices exclusively for use in his own home, but such cider and fruit juices shall not be sold or delivered except to persons who have permits to manufacture vinegar."

He then declared:
"I can hardly regard grape juice containing 13 per cent of alcohol as nonintoxicating. Possession of grape juice for home use which was nonintoxicating when manufactured by the possessor, becomes unlawful under the act whenever the liquor becomes intoxicating, whether through natural fermentation or otherwise."

A POLITICAL move of more than usual moment was the announcement by former Postmaster General Burleson of his support of Gov. Al Smith for the Democratic nomination for President. General Burleson has been a supporter of William G. McAdoo for the nomination, but on March 23 was reported as saying that Governor Smith "is the most available man in the Democratic party for the Democratic nomination in 1928, and if nominated will carry every state in the solid South."

THE American army good will flyers who have been touring South America are now well on their way home. By the 24th they had reached French Guiana. On the 21st they made a record flight for the trip, covering 1,100 miles, landing at Para, Brazil, at the mouth of the Amazon river. On the 23rd the bodies of Capt. C. F. Woolsey and Lieut. John W. Benton, of the good will crew, who were killed in the accident to the "Detrol" at Buenos Aires, arrived at New York.

THE United States has notified Mexico that March 23 will be the end of the smuggling treaty between this country and Mexico. This is significant because this treaty, among other things, prohibits the shipment of arms to Mexican revolutionists without the knowledge of the Calles government.

The abrogation of the convention makes possible the lifting of the arms embargo on the shipment of arms into Mexico. With the smuggling treaty in operation the lifting of the arms embargo would have little punitive or disciplinary effect if directed against the Mexican government on account of its confiscation of the property of American citizens under the oil and land laws. With it removed the decks will be cleared and this government will be empowered to move if the President decides drastic action is necessary to protect American property in Mexico.

WISCONSIN and Minnesota have attempted to impose taxes on shares of national bank stock but a decision of the United States Supreme court holds the state laws in these states to be in violation of a federal law prohibiting rates in excess of those upon "other moneyed capital in the hands of individual citizens."

Both cases involved the interpretation of section 5219 of revised statutes, which sanction the taxation of shares of national banks in a state with the restriction that "the taxation shall not be at a greater rate than is assessed upon other moneyed capital in the hands of individual citizens of such state."

The court held that competition may exist between capital invested in national banks and other moneyed capital, even though the competition deal with some but not all phases of the business of national banks.

In the Minnesota case it was shown that under the statutes of that state shares of national banks and of other banks and of mortgage loan companies are taxed at a higher rate than money or credits used in other forms of enterprise.

A TOTAL of 2,314,905 visitors were registered at the 19 national parks and 32 national monuments of the United States during 1926, a gain of 290,343 over the previous year, according to a statement issued by Dr. Hubert Work, secretary of the Interior. The total receipts increased from \$670,920 to \$826,454, although the automobile fees in many of the parks were cut in half.

Several years ago she built an expensive house not far from her own residence and offered it to congress as a home for the vice president, which office was then held by Calvin Coolidge. Her offer, however, was turned down and the house has never been occupied.

So ardent has Mrs. Henderson been in her efforts to keep intact the spacious thoroughfare, fringed on both sides with lines of trees, that she has won the title of the "dowager of embassy row."

BARNEY AND THE BRAT

(© by D. J. Walsh.)

FROM the terrible night of the canery fire, when a wall of the burning building suddenly fell in and Barney, most intrepid of fire-fighters, went down in the crash, the men at engine house No. 8 had done everything possible for their injured comrade.

The three months that Barney lay in the hospital not a day passed without one of them visiting him. They carried all sorts of presents from bumpy, hard-fisted bouquets tied with coarse string from home gardens to a most gorgeous bathrobe that would have completely eclipsed Joseph's coat-of-many-colors. And when at last poor Barney, a helpless cripple for life, was able to be taken home, they all chipped in and bought him a wheelchair.

But with these big-hearted, open-handed men giving so far had been a pleasure. Now came the real test of devotion. They were asked to give until it hurt.

It was Jerry who made the suggestion—the one in the group of men seated at the engine-house door with the bright-eyed, alert-eared fox terrier at his feet.

The proposal met with blank silence.

"I know it's not easy, boys," Jerry spoke again. "It's going to be like pulling teeth without any laughing gas to every mother's son of us. But something's got to be done or the first thing we'll know Barney will be putting bullets into himself. All the time he was in the hospital I never saw him so disheartened as he is now.

"It's company Barney most needs now," Jerry continued. "His wife's devoted to him, but except for hurrying in to get him a bite of lunch at her noon hour she's gone all day. And she can't give up her bookkeeping job, for their little house isn't paid for yet, and Barney's mar-sarge and electric treatments cost a lot of money. Now if he had the Brat—"

"But why the Brat?" asked a fireman recently transferred to No. 8, "couldn't we get him another dog that would do as well?"

Jerry shook his head. "There ain't no such animal! Not in Barney's opinion, anyhow. You see, while we all contribute to the Brat's keep, Barney had more to do with the kid's bringing up and education than the rest of us put together."

"I can remember," reminiscently grinned Jovial Joe, "way back when the Brat was a puppy, yelping nights to beat the band, and us fellows shying boots at him to make him shut up, how Barney would get out of bed and warm milk for him."

"And it was Barney who learned him all his tricks," chimed in another of the men.

"And Barney who trained the Brat to ride to fires, sitting up beside him as important as the chief himself," contributed a third.

"I tell you what let's do, boys," winkingly proposed Jovial Joe, "let's put it up to the Brat. 'Brat,' said he, addressing the fox terrier, 'which would you rather belong to? Engine house No. 8 in general, or Barney in particular?'"

At the word Barney, spoken in an arresting tone, the Brat danced up and down, wagged his stub of a tail and broke into an outburst of excited yaps.

"I should say the vote was unanimous," grinned Jovial Joe.

And the next day, with due ceremony, the presentation was made.

From that time on Barney began to improve. Not only was the Brat company; he was occupation as well. Barney fed him, brushed, combed and bathed him. He taught him all sorts of new tricks.

So while still the helpless cripple, a light came into Barney's dull eyes, a healthy color to his cheeks, even a cheerful whistle to his lips.

Such was his improvement, in fact, that in a couple of weeks he was well enough for his wife to wheel him out in the sunny front yard at noon and leave him there with his inseparable companion until the schoolboy neighbor had arranged with wheeled him in again at four.

Barney and the Brat were "as happy as kings."

Then, out of a clear sky, a fly thrust itself into the intimacy of their content—a bolsterous buzz-fly.

The buzz-fly was a lawn mower in the next doorway.

At the sound of it, the streak of it across the grass, the Brat went wild with resentment.

Unfortunately, Hopkins, the owner of the next door house, was out of a job and terribly out of sorts because of the fact, and to have a yapping, snapping small dog huri himself before the lawn mower every time he started in cutting his grass made him furious.

"If you don't call off that confounded dog of yours, I'll not be responsible

if he gets hurt," he angrily exploded. Barney called off, but the instant the lawn mower tuned up, the Brat was back whing before it.

Soon it was not merely a case of lawn mower. The Brat dug holes in the Hopkins flower-beds. The Brat tracked mud on the Hopkins porch. The Brat left boxes on the Hopkins doormat.

Then came a climax of threats.

If he—Barney—could not put a stop to that infernal dog being such a nuisance, he—Hopkins—would find a way to.

From the first, poor Barney, who had not a moment's peace for fear his beloved Brat would be shot or poisoned, knew there was only one way out; one safe way, for the Brat's "health and happiness." But it took him a week to make up his mind.

In the middle of a sleepless night Barney came to the great decision. How he could live without him he did not know, but the Brat must go back to engine house No. 8—go the next day while "the going was good."

As Barney lay there in the outer darkness of the night and his renunciation, tears streamed down his cheeks, a lump choked his throat.

What was that?

As Barney listened, his heart turned cold. It was a dog in a wild outburst of barks, yelps, howls. It was the Brat who slept out in the back yard, now the nights were mild.

If he should wake up Hopkins!

A shutter of the next-door house slammed back; a window sash went up; the enraged Hopkins began to swear at the Brat.

Then the impossible happened.

Without stopping to call his wife, who slept in the communicating room with the door open between, somehow the cripple got out of bed and to the window.

"Brat! Be quiet, Brat!" he called—and fell unconscious to the floor.

When he came to, Barney was again lying in bed, his wife seated beside him, holding his hand.

"Brat?" he faltered in distress. An ecstatic bark on the other side of the bed answered.

"Feeling better, Barney?" In a daze of astonishment Barney lifted his eyes to a fireman bending solicitously over him.

"Why, Jerry!" he gasped. "What brought you here? Has there been a fire?"

"Yes, don't you remember? The fire next door that gave you the scare. But there's nothing to worry about. The department got it out in short order. It would have been another story, though, if the Brat hadn't discovered the blaze and raised Cain. Say, grinned Jerry, "Hopkins is going to buy the kid a scrumptious collar. He can't say enough in the Brat's praise. Declares he's the smartest cuss of a dog that he ever clapped his eyes on."

Dust as a Shield

The British royal commission on mines has made some interesting experiments on explosions of mixtures of coal dust and air. It has demonstrated that such mixtures are eminently explosive, and also that the explosions can be mitigated, or confined in area, by means of stone dust, which is not explosive.

A coal dust area was placed between a dustless region and one spread with stone dust, after which an explosion was produced in the coal dust by firing a cannon. The results appeared to demonstrate that the effects of an explosion may be transmitted to a considerable distance over a dustless zone by the coal dust driven before the air blast, but that the stone dust has a restraining effect.

Picking Up a Pin

In this country to pick up a pin seen on the pavement is supposed to be an indication of thrift. In Russia this is not so. A traveler writes:

"I was walking one day with an old Russian lady down a street in Moscow. Seeing a pin on the ground, I stooped to pick it up, when my companion restrained me, saying: "Don't do that. According to a Russian superstition, if a person afflicted with a disease drops a pin and somebody picks it up, the disease will pass from the dropper of the pin to the picker-up."

Getting Material

The athletic coach at University of California southern branch, was looking over the members of the freshman class for material for the football squad.

"Do you know anything about sports?" he asked of Kenneth Iverson. "Not a thing," replied Kenny.

"What can you do?"

"I can do the Charleston," was the answer.

"All right. You'll be in line for cheer leader."

Coloring Electric Globes

Electric incandescent globes may be easily colored by dipping globes into a solution of colloidon, previously colored to suit, with aniline soluble in colloidon. Dip and rotate quickly, bulbs down, until dry.

Spain in America



Fortress Wall at San Juan, Porto Rico.

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

THERE is a large Spanish-speaking world today, comparable in a way to the English-speaking world. But unlike the latter the Spanish-speaking region is not to a considerable extent under the wing of a mother country, but is instead divided among more than a score of independent nations.

The great empire of Spain—the most extensive that up to that time had existed—was based chiefly on a papal bull. Soon after Columbus sailed west to America and Vasco da Gama sailed east into the Indian ocean, the bull was issued dividing the world approximately south of the Pillars of Hercules into two realms, and giving Portugal a monopoly of exploration to the East and Spain a monopoly to the West. The dividing line was fixed 37 degrees "west and south" of the Azores and Cape Verde islands, so that it ran just east of the West Indies and roughly cut Brazil from the South American continent. All the rest of the new world was left vaguely to Spain. Spanish explorers and adventurers poured westward on the heels of Columbus, and had soon staked out for Spain all of the West Indies, most of South America, and large areas in the southern part of North America.

The first settlement was established at the end of the Fifteenth century in Hispaniola, the present island of Santo Domingo. Then in the first decade of the Sixteenth century settlements were started or attempted in rapid succession in Jamaica, Porto Rico and Cuba. Such widely separated regions as the Isthmus of Panama, Florida, and the coast of Argentina were reached in 1513. In the same year Balboa crossed the Isthmus, waded into the Pacific and made that classically sweeping claim in the name of the king of Spain. To that sovereign, he proclaimed, belonged, as a result of his wading party, the entire ocean and all land which its waters touched.

Swift Growth of the Empire.

In 1519 Magellan (though a Portuguese) was sent out by Spain to traverse the newly discovered ocean. Finally he reached the Philippines, which by strict interpretation lay within Portugal's "mandate." However, with the comforting philosophy that east was west if you arrived there by sailing westward, Spain claimed this large group of islands and 35 years later established settlements there.

In the meantime Spanish power was growing rapidly in the new world. The conquest of Mexico began in 1519. Panama City was founded the same year and became a starting point for expeditions north and south along the shores of the Pacific. Peru was invaded in 1532 and Chile came at least partly under control soon after. The California coast was explored in 1542 and land expeditions went about the same time into regions that are now New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and even Colorado. Settlements had previously been established in Venezuela and Colombia on the Caribbean coast of South America.

By 1580 the Spanish possessions were at their greatest. In Europe they included in addition to Spain itself, the Low Countries, Naples, Milan, Sicily and Sardinia and the Canary Islands; in the new world, the West Indies, most of South America, all of Central America, and the southern part of North America, even including large areas now in the United States; in Africa, small settlements on the north coast; and in the East, the Philippines and sundry small islands of the Pacific.

Today there exist between 90,000,000 and 100,000,000 people whose native language is Spanish. The Spanish-speaking world, therefore, has

roughly half as many members as the English-speaking world. The area of this cultural remainder of the Spanish empire is roundly 5,000,000 square miles. The region still in allegiance to the Spanish language thus covers about one-eleventh of the land area of the earth and embraces about one-twentieth of the earth's population.

Many Millions Speak Spanish.

In setting out to explore this Spanish world, the logical starting point is Spain itself, the fountainhead of the influences which deeply affected a large slice of the earth; and equally logically the direction of the journey is west. On the west coast of Africa two patches of territory are encountered where the Spanish flag as well as Spanish influences rest. Off shore are the Canary Islands. There the Spanish flag is left behind.

The next bit of the Spanish world encountered lies in the new world. It is Uruguay, smallest republic of South America, where the children of Spain are carrying on the culture of the mother country. Beyond, eight other countries—all those of South America save Portuguese Brazil and British, French, and Dutch Guiana—fall, too, under the banner of Spanish culture.

In the West Indies there have been defections. Trinidad and the Leeward and Windward Islands, although once all claimed by Spain, have lost or never felt Spanish culture. Over Porto Rico the flag of the United States flies; but it is still a part of the Spanish world. Spain is dominant in blood, traditions and language. In old Hispaniola, where the Spanish seed was first planted in the new world, the eastern half of the island still shows strongly the Spanish impress. This is the Dominican republic where language and law are still Spanish. But in the western half of the island, covered by the Republic of Haiti, Spanish culture succumbed to that of France and Africa.

Jamaica, once a stronghold of Spain, has long been dominated by British culture; and the Bahamas, claimed by Spain, have known only British influences. Cuba has been independent of Spanish political power since 1898, but is still culturally a part of Spain—the most Spanish of West Indian islands.

Cultural Influences.

Through the Isthmus of Panama, Central America and Mexico, Spanish cultural influences sweep unbroken as they have for the past three centuries and more. Florida shows little effect of her former Spanish ownership save in a few geographic names. Texas, too, was lost to Spain, but the effects there are greater; and in many a community near the Rio Grande the Spanish language is almost as necessary as the English. In Arizona and California, once under Spanish influences, the situation is much like that in Texas.

But one American state stands on a different footing. New Mexico has barely passed the point at which its English-speaking influences weigh more heavily than its Spanish factors. Only a few years ago it could have been listed as a part of the Spanish world. Then its legislature was conducted in Spanish or in the two tongues; and Spanish was the current language on street, and range, and farm.

Continuing westward one finds no further traces of Spain's world-wide empire until he reaches the Philippines. There, in spite of the mixture of blood, Spanish culture took firm hold, at least in the non-Mohammedan country. Spanish customs, laws and architecture will go doubt course life in the Philippines for many years to come.