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## HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

### NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

#### Kellogg Curtly Refuses to Discuss Mellon Letter With England.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WHEN Secretary of the Treasury Mellon in a recent letter to President Hibben of Princeton university stated that "all our principal debtors are already receiving from Germany more than enough to pay their debts to the United States," there was immediate protest in England against the accuracy of the statement in so far as it applied to Great Britain. Chancellor of the Exchequer Churchill and others made heated speeches, but it was not supposed that the government would take formal notice of the matter. Last week, however, Washington was surprised to receive from Great Britain a long note attacking Mr. Mellon's letter and asking that the United States government "take steps to remove the unfortunate impression that has been created by the issue of this statement."

Secretary of State Kellogg conferred with President Coolidge and others and then handed to the British ambassador this decidedly curt reply:

"The government of the United States regards the correspondence between Mr. Mellon and Mr. Hibben as a purely domestic discussion and does not desire to engage in any formal diplomatic exchanges upon the subject."

Mr. Mellon, believing the attacks in the British note should not go unanswered, gave out a statement justifying and explaining at length the position he has taken in the discussion.

Diplomatic circles in London were as much surprised by the British note as was Washington. In government opposition circles there was an inclination to suspect that the note was meant largely for home consumption and for the benefit of the Conservative party, which has difficulty in explaining the budget deficit.

AMERICAN correspondents in Geneva say that the underlying idea of all delegations (except the American) at the League of Nations economic conference which opened last week is that the most practical step toward world reconstruction and general prosperity would be the cancellation of all war debts and reparations. Some of them also had schemes for the limitation of production of wheat, corn, cotton, copper and other goods, chiefly produced in the United States. The American delegates, headed by Henry M. Robinson of Los Angeles, were primed to meet all such suggestions. Soviet Russia, having settled her quarrel with Switzerland, sent a bunch of economists led by Valerian Ossinski. That gentleman said they would submit "concrete proposals to alleviate the difficulties of the bourgeoisie world and give a full report on what was accomplished in Soviet Russia."

M. Theunis of Belgium is presiding over the conference and 50 nations are represented. The conference will adopt resolutions and make recommendations, which, however, will not be binding on the countries represented, whatever may be the attitude of their delegations.

FACTS and problems of commerce and trade on the Western continent were brought out and discussed in Washington where both the third Pan-American commercial congress and the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States were in session. President Coolidge was chief speaker at a joint session of the two bodies and set forth the development of trade between the United States and the countries of Central and South America. He said that not only has the United States purchased more from Latin-American countries than it has sold to them, but that for a long time been the chief foreign purchaser of their products.

Next day the Chamber of Commerce heard reports from the principal sections of the country, all showing present prosperity with prospect of its continuance, except in the case of the farmer. His plight, in the Middle West and the cotton-growing part of the South, was described as discouraging.

FLOOD conditions in southeastern Arkansas, northeastern Louisiana and western Mississippi grew worse steadily during the week. The water, pouring through new crevasses on the Mississippi, inundated a region about 5,000 square miles in extent, only a few narrow ridges being left above the surface. Most of the population already had been gathered at concentration points, but many hundreds were left stranded on the levees and small high places. The rescue of these unfortunates was being carried on as rapidly as possible, being directed by the scores of navy aviators sent there by the government. Civilian Dictator Parker was in general charge of the rescue operations and was doing splendid work. Secretary Hoover returned to Washington long enough to report to the President, and the result was a call for another \$5,000,000 subscription to the Red Cross relief fund. The spread of disease in the flooded states was the cause of great anxiety and of such precautions as could be taken.

"We have definite reports of 25 cases of typhoid fever in the refugee camps, and there probably are many others," said Dr. William R. Redden, medical director for the American Red Cross. "And the worst part of the health problem is to come in a week or ten days, when the disease has had an opportunity to manifest itself. The health problem will increase as the waters recede."

A hundred thousand persons were immunized with typhoid and smallpox antitoxin, and the Red Cross obtained from the army ten mobile laboratories for the purification of water.

President Coolidge has indicated that he did not think it necessary to call a special session of congress for providing relief and rehabilitation in the Mississippi valley. Senators Copeland of New York and La Follette of Wisconsin disagreed with him and both of them appealed to him by wire to call congress together. They asserted that funds from private resources would not be sufficient and that the flood victims were entitled to look to congress for assistance.

When Mr. Hoover returned from the capital he was accompanied by Secretary of War Davis, who was asked by the President to make a comprehensive study of the problem of flood control, in conjunction with the army engineers, and to submit recommendations for remedial legislation prior to the opening of the next congress. A flood-control conference also was held at Peoria, Ill., with numerous experts and officials in attendance. The people of the Middle West are so aroused by this disaster, described by Senator La Follette as the greatest in our history, that the national and state governments may be led at last to provide adequate protection against a repetition. Patchwork measures and dilatory tactics in the past have combined to make unified flood control impossible, according to those who have studied the subject. The federal government is held primarily responsible.

NINETY-FOUR men were entombed in the Everettville mine near Fairmont, W. Va., by an explosion. At the time of writing 29 bodies had been brought out by the rescue crews, and it was thought certain that all the rest of the unfortunate miners had perished, for fire was raging in parts of the workings.

THOUGH the peace conference in Nicaragua failed to accomplish its purpose, because the liberals would not consent to the retention of the Presidency by Adolfo Diaz, a two days' truce was arranged with the prospect of further negotiations. General Moncada, commander in chief of the liberal army, represented Doctor Sacasa at the conference and he said he was willing to treat further with Henry L. Stimson, the emissary of President Coolidge, provided the government troops were withdrawn from the Boaco and Teustepe regions

usually requires about four months. Copies turned out last year cost \$278,473. Twenty thousand went to the Agriculture department, which paid \$28,821 for them out of its annual appropriation. All of the remainder except 200, which are reserved for sale at \$1.50 a copy, provided the gratis supply runs out, went to the house and senate.

Next in point of production of public documents is the Postal Guide, 95,000 of which were made and distributed last year.

where most of the liberals are concentrated. "Mr. Stimson told me," said General Moncada, "that the United States government intends to restore peace in Nicaragua immediately and to use force if necessary to do so." A number of the general's staff declared that if the United States formally ordered the liberals to lay down their arms and cease firing, they would be compelled to accept. But, he added, so long as the United States attempted to lay down terms, which included the continuance of Diaz in office, the liberals would fight for "constitutionalism and justice for Nicaragua."

MARSHAL CHANG TSO-LIN'S Peking government executed the Chinese Reds caught in the raid on the Russian embassy grounds, and the other day it was reported that the Russian propagandists nabbed at the time were to be tried by court-martial. The Moscow government therefore transmitted to Peking a strong note warning Chang that if the Russians received the same sentence as the Chinese Communists, Russia would "immediately take the inevitable steps." The trials were postponed and a conference of Chinese officials was held at which, according to rumor, it was decided that the Russians should be deported. Mme. Michael Borodine, the captured wife of the Soviet adviser to the Cantonese government, presumably will have a separate trial.

Miles Lampson, British minister to China, has reported to his government that the Hankow faction of the Cantonese has offered to oust the Reds and make common cause with the Nanking moderates if the powers will cease further action against it. The offer was made by Foreign Minister Eugene Chen himself, but the London officials were suspicious that it was a ruse to gain further delay.

Some person or persons in Peking, apparently desirous of creating the impression that there was lack of harmony in the American government over its Chinese policy, sent out the report that Minister MacMurray had resigned. This was flatly denied in Washington and the administration showed considerable irritation over this and other false press stories from foreign sources. At present Mr. Coolidge does not see that any advantage could be derived by sending another note concerning the Nanking outrages, and he does not believe the other powers have agreed to follow up the former note and press for compliance because conditions in the ranks of the Nationalist party are too chaotic.

PREMIER POINCARÉ electrified France by the announcement that the government was planning the construction of a vast system of fortifications on its northern and eastern frontiers, so powerful and extensive that another invasion would be next to impossible. The northern gateways will be adequately safeguarded and the eastern gates at Verdun, Toul, Metz, Belfort and Strasbourg will be modernized. The plan also envisages the establishment of fortified works straight south to the Mediterranean.

EIGHT army aviators, the "good will" flyers who have been touring Central and South America, returned last week to Washington. President and Mrs. Coolidge and numerous officials went out to Bolling field to welcome them home, and to each flyer the President presented a certificate for the distinguished flying cross. It was announced, too, that posthumous award of the cross had been made to Capt. C. F. Woolsey and Lieut. J. W. Benton, who were killed when their planes crashed at Buenos Aires.

DETACHMENTS of the Arkansas National Guard were sent to Little Rock by the governor to avert threatened race riots as a result of the lynching of a negro. The victim of the mob had been identified as the attacker of two white women. After a few hours of strenuous work the militiamen gained control of the situation.

PRESIDENT FIGUEROA of Chile has resigned, and President Kondurotis has withdrawn his resignation, agreeing to remain in office at least until September.

"Do you know, Susan," Anna said to her sister one afternoon after she had glanced from the window to the clock several times, "I haven't seen that Carter woman for two days, either going out or coming in?"

Susan considered. "I haven't either," she said. "Is she away? But, even careless as she is, I don't think she would go and leave those two children alone in the house, poor little neglected things though they be."

"They don't look neglected," argued Anna. "They are always very nicely dressed and clean. And Mrs. Adams has found out that she does all the sewing herself."

### THAT CARTER WOMAN

(By D. J. Walsh.)

THE Misses Bridger had known the moment they saw her just how to define her status on Chestnut street. She was to be "that Carter woman." Nothing could be more derogatory than that.

In spite of the Misses Bridger and their scornful criticism, "that Carter woman" went serenely on her way. She had entered town in advance of a van load of household gear, had rented the small shabby house opposite the somewhat imposing Bridger dwelling and had proceeded to establish herself therein. The later advent of a pair of children, a girl and a boy, and a husband who appeared briefly and then vanished from the scene augmented the first impression that Chestnut street was to be treated to a brand-new sensation.

Mrs. Carter was small, brown, pretty. She was as light on her feet as a toe dancer and as swift of motion as a hummingbird. Before the neighbors were aware she had curtains up and plants in the window. By the time they had discussed their duty of calling upon her she had made the matter unnecessary by getting a job that kept her away from home every weekday afternoon and evening.

"She is playing for the 'movies!'" Constanter sat upon Susan Bridger's brow as she told her sister what she had discovered. "She plays at the Golden Glow. Did you ever in your life?"

Anna Bridger shook her head. That Carter woman had now placed herself forever beyond the pale of neighborhood solitude.

"And those children," went on Susan passionately, "are left to come up as they please. They are nice-looking youngsters, too. I saw them just now as I came by. The girl is eleven and the boy nine, I should think. That woman leaves them to themselves and goes trotting away with a music roll, wearing that absurd little red hat and a skirt no longer than a school girl's. I can't imagine their having proper food and care, and the house must be a sight, for she is practicing on that piano the whole morning."

Anna sighed. "What is there about the husband, I'd like to know?" she asked.

Mrs. Adams says he is working in the place where they came from, but it looks—it certainly does look as if they had a difference, doesn't it. The very fact that he isn't looking after his family proves against her. Those poor, dear, innocent children!"

Mrs. Adams bore a fresh discovery to the sisters. "What do you think? That Carter woman is bringing up that daughter of hers to be a professional dancer? She is taking lessons of Miss Blencoe."

"I never heard of such a thing!" cried Anna Bridger. "Why, it is absolutely immoral! Something should be done about it. I shall speak to the doctor."

"I imagine," Susan said sadly, "that Carter woman will stand for no interference. I saw her buying at the meat market, and the way she called Mr. Brice down!"

Silence fell upon the three women. That Carter woman was absolutely beyond comprehension. The following day the Misses Bridger met the Carter woman on her way to the "movies," music roll in hand. She half smiled, half nodded, then as the two elderly spinsters looked stonily away she flung up her firm chin and went away apparently uncares, but the stains of red on her cheeks bore evidence to her real feelings.

"I don't believe in countenancing anything I so thoroughly disapprove of as I do that woman," said Susan severely. And Anna, as usual, echoed her sister's sentiment. Several weeks passed. Nobody went to the Carter house but the grocer, the butcher and the baker, and they went infrequently, for Mrs. Carter "each morning took her basket and went marketing. Indeed it became an ordinary morning sight for the neighbors, this glimpse of the brisk, neat little brown body with the large basket on her arm."

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Susan considered. "I haven't either," she said. "Is she away? But, even careless as she is, I don't think she would go and leave those two children alone in the house, poor little neglected things though they be."

"They don't look neglected," argued Anna. "They are always very nicely dressed and clean. And Mrs. Adams has found out that she does all the sewing herself."

"Still, she neglects them for all that. No woman who doesn't stay in

her home can expect to train her children properly. For all we know she may be gallivanting to the four winds this minute. I think, Anna, that we ought to go and see what is going on there. I really do."

Susan looked so virtuously resolute that Anna felt obliged to yield. A moment later the two sisters crossed the street to the door of the Carter house. They rang, but as nobody answered they went round to the back door, Susan knocked and the door was opened instantly by a plump, pretty little girl in an apron.

"Oh, it's our neighbors!" she cried, cordially. "Come right in, both of you. This is my brother, Henry. I am Charlotte."

Henry, plump and pretty like his sister, stood before a molding board rolling out pie crust with the deftness of an expert. The sisters gasped.

"You are making pie!" Susan said. "We've made one. See!" Charlotte opened the oven door and let them peep in at the sizzling beauty. "It's apple. We are so fond of apple pies. And we didn't have any for lunch today, so we thought we'd have plenty for tomorrow. But you mustn't stop in the kitchen, dear neighbors. Come right into the sitting room, and I'll see if mother is awake. She has been quite sick and we are making her stay in bed till she's rested up."

Charlotte vanished and Henry took up the strain. "Father is coming home tonight to stay," he said eagerly. "He's got a splendid job right here in town so he can be with us all the time. Father is just grand. So is my mother."

The sitting room, like the kitchen, was charmingly neat and homelike and Mrs. Carter's room was in the same beautiful order. She smiled gratefully upon her visitors.

"The doctor thinks I've been overdoing a bit," she explained. "It's the first time we've moved since we were married. But as we are going to buy this house I trust we shall not have to move again."

"I am amazed at those children," said Susan.

"Why, they are very ordinary children, except that their father and I have trained them to be self-reliant. They have done every bit of work in this house—taken care of me, gone to school and kept up their lessons for two days." She added earnestly: "I have always been a very busy woman, for I've tried to help out the family income, so the children have had to do their share. That is all."

The Bridger sisters went straight from the Carter house to Mrs. Adams'. They were enthusiastic in their praise of the new neighbors.

"Mrs. Carter is a fine woman," they declared.

That Carter woman thereby ceased to exist.

#### Almost Ruined

Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, once went for a day's deep-water fishing, and the old boatman, knowing who his patron was, bombarded him with questions about incidents and happenings in the career of the great detective. To most of them Conan Doyle took shelter behind the answer: "I have forgotten," or "I don't remember." Finally, the old boatman said:

"You remember when Sherlock Holmes fell over the cliff, don't you?"

"Oh, yes, I remember that, all right," Conan Doyle had to confess. "Was he badly hurt?"

"Yes, he was."

"I thought he must have been," said the old fellow; "he's never been the same man since."

#### Hampered by Long Skirts

Old-fashioned long skirts interfered with Miss Jess Gray Davison learning to play an organ as a girl, but this has not prevented Miss Davison from becoming the only woman managing director of an organ manufacturing firm in England. The business has been a family concern since 1750, and Miss Davison took charge on account of the illness of two brothers. Her grandmother regarded it as "unladylike" for Miss Davison to play the organ as a girl because "the long skirts worn in those days might get mixed up with the pedals."

#### Why the Rush?

A prominent South American physician visiting this country as a result of his observations says that he cannot understand a business man who will bolt his breakfast and race to his office as the clock points to 9, and then sit back and read a newspaper or chat with his fellow employees instead of getting busy. In Buenos Aires business people aren't so particular to be prompt, but when they do get to business they work steadily, is his assertion.

#### Oases in Sahara

The oases of the Sahara desert in Africa range in size from a fraction of an acre to many miles. Oasis is merely a general term for a watered and fertile spot surrounded by barren or desert regions.

## Whitsuntide in Rothenburg

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

THE traveler in Germany who, at Whitsuntide, is within reach of Rothenburg ob der Tauber, should set aside all other plans and visit this perfect medieval-walled town to witness a unique festival, so picturesque and so pleasantly diverting as to have no equal in continental Europe. On this occasion the city does honor to the man who took the biggest drink in all history, bar none! Thereby he saved the lives of Rothenburg's town council and obtained mercy for his fellow citizens.

This is the story: During the Thirty Years' war Rothenburg felt secure behind her great wall, with her towers well placed for defense; with her wide, and at that time very wet, moat; with her citizenry trained to arms and loving nothing better than a good fight, and with a garrison of professional soldiers, a Swedish force sent to help the Rothenburgers against the enemy. But the city was besieged by no less a general than Tilly himself, who brought up his whole army of 40,000 and swore to capture the town and deal with it as he had already dealt with hapless Magdeburg.

Tilly's cannon battered at the walls, and the light artillery of the city's towers was powerless to silence the heavier guns of the besiegers; but whenever a breach was made and Tilly's soldiers attacked, in hand-to-hand fighting, they were beaten off by the intrepid townsmen.

Tilly warned the city that capture was inevitable, and that the only salvation of the citizens lay in surrender; but they would none of it. At last one of the assailants' cannon, by a lucky shot, exploded the Rothenburg powder magazine. Even then the toughy burghers refused to surrender, but with dauntless courage continued the hand-to-hand fighting. It was left to the garrison of mercenaries to hang out the white flag.

Saved by a Huge Drink. Tilly was so enraged at the prolonged resistance of the town that, after he had taken possession of it and allowed the surrendering Swedes to march out in safety, he summoned the members of the town council and informed them that they were all to be hanged. But, moved by the pleas of their wives and daughters, the conqueror at length mitigated this sentence and announced that he would hang only four. He gave the council permission to cast lots to see who of their number should die.

Whereupon the undismayed council stood up and refused the marshal's "mercy," saying they would all live or they would all die, but there would be no lot-casting among them at Tilly's bidding. At this point in the proceedings, a diversion was created by the appearance of the town Pokal, the state beaker, a huge three-quarter glass, filled with the town's best wine. Tilly and his seven aides drank and drank again. The Pokal went around twice and still it was not empty. "Perhaps the wine softened Tilly's heart! At all events, he cast a grimly humorous eye over the council and swore that if there were any man among them who could empty the famous Pokal at one draft the council would be spared and mercy would be shown to the citizenry.

The proposal did not seem to offer much of a chance to the staunch patriots, even though the Rothenburgers were supposed to be as good drinkers as fighters; but at last one brave soul, ex-Burgmaster George Nusch, said he would make a try, and intimated that if he failed he'd just as soon be hanged drunk as sober. The keeper of the town cellar refilled the beaker, and George Nusch lifted it—and drank—and drank—and drank—and drank. One quart, two quarts and a half, three quarts—down it went to the very last drop! And with the last drop Nusch fell senseless at the feet of the conferring general, while a cheer went up from those he had saved from the hangman's noose.

It is gratifying to relate that Nusch came to presently and suffered no ill effects from his draft.

#### Re-enacted in the Pageant

Tilly was as good as his word—nearly. He spared the Rothenburgers' lives, but he made them pay him heavily in cash for his leniency, and he turned the town over to his soldiers for a week of looting and pillage. But George Nusch had won a place in history and in the hearts of his countrymen that well deserves the annual Whitsuntide party the city stages for him.

#### This is the pageant of Whitsuntide

which the tourist must not miss. Each year some thousand or more of the town's inhabitants don the costumes of 1631 and re-enact the whole drama of the siege, the capture, and the emptying of the Pokal—with the exception that the George Nusch of today doesn't have to drink the whole three quarts. It is all done with superb accuracy of detail, with spirit, gusto, and rare histrionic power. It would not be possible, of course, to give this drama as it is given, were not Rothenburg itself still very much as it was in medieval times. To be sure, the moat has been drained, save for a pond or two, and peaceful gardens and orchards grow where once its turbid waters flowed. But the wall is still there, repaired and complete, and the very towers where once the arquebuses fired futilely at Tilly's men at arms.

Moreover, the townsmen of Rothenburg, with splendid appreciation of their native place, have refused to let any modern innovations creep into the architecture or the city's streets. When a house or a highway within the walls needs repair, it is done in a way to preserve its ancient appearance. Rothenburg today looks as it must have looked long before Columbus discovered America. Indeed, parts of the city date from two centuries before that time.

More, the townsmen of Rothenburg, with splendid appreciation of their native place, have refused to let any modern innovations creep into the architecture or the city's streets. When a house or a highway within the walls needs repair, it is done in a way to preserve its ancient appearance. Rothenburg today looks as it must have looked long before Columbus discovered America. Indeed, parts of the city date from two centuries before that time.

This fascinating town is the sort of place to drive an artist mad, since every corner, every shop, every tiny red-tiled house, is a picture. As for the Rathaus, with its beautiful Renaissance doorway in the inner court, the Jakobskirche, the Franciscan church, the Burgturm, the romantic Topplerschlosschen, and the small Gothic Kobolzellkerch, built in 1472, with its amusing double spiral staircase, which two persons can ascend at once without seeing each other—all of these can be, have been, and will be painted again and again, for the delight of all those who find pleasure in medieval beauty.

Ancient Torture Chambers. Below the Rathaus are torture chambers and dungeons, without which no medieval town hall would be complete. The Rothenburgers did nothing by halves; so their dungeons and torture chambers are the last word in horror even now, though the rack and the Iron Maiden have been removed. Criminals were executed here by the sword as recently as 1804, in which year Bavaria stepped in and revoked the city's rights to deal out such bloody punishments.

The civic pride of the old-time Rothenburgers was a splendid thing. They dug down into their pockets and built the Rathaus just after a war tax of 80,000 gulden had been levied on the town. They built the Jakobskirche, a high and handsome basilica. In one of the chapels inside this church is the tomb of Heinrich Toppler, an even greater hero in Rothenburg than Nusch. He was a burgomaster of the earlier days, for he died in 1408, and to him the town owed much of its prosperity and many of its fine buildings. There are two dice carved on Toppler's tomb, because he cast dice for the city with the Burggrave of Nuremberg and won!

When the traveler is weary of churches he will do well to go out into the park and enjoy the views of the town's steep red gables, while below in the valley may be seen Toppler's own castle, where he used often to entertain his friend, the Emperor Wenzel.

After a visit to the park, a walk around the city on top of the old wall is in order. This may be reached by staircases at the city's gates. The wall has a roofed pathway some 4 feet wide, open on the town side only. The Spitalbastel, the great bastion at the extreme end of the town, is an epitome of medieval defense, with its 5-foot walls, wide ramparts, and frowning old guns.

As a last and pleasing touch, one should read the old Latin motto on the near-by Kobolzellertor, the most picturesque of all the city's gates: "PAX INTRANTIBUS" "SALUS EXEUNTIBUS" which may be translated as "Peace to those who enter; safety to those who depart."

Shake Hands With Self. When you meet a friend, why not shake hands with yourself instead of clasping the other's hand? The Ohio Health News makes the suggestion, urging adoption of the Chinese method of handshaking as a hygienic measure. Many infections are transmitted through the medium of handshaking by the American method, while the Chinese custom obviates this danger.