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HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

United States and Japan Oppose British Cruiser Demands.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

BRITANNIA rules the waves, and she intends to go on ruling them, if the efforts and arguments of her representatives at the Geneva naval limitation conference are a true indication of the national spirit. Last week the conferees devoted themselves to the subject of cruisers, earnestly discussing the conclusions reached by the naval experts and, at this writing, having reached nothing like an agreement. As was explained a week ago, the British demanded a minimum of 600,000 tons of cruisers, most of them preferably below 7,500 tons each, on the ground that their world-wide commerce lanes and their need of protecting the home food supply required this, and evidently because their innumerable naval bases would enable the vessels of restricted cruising radius to operate anywhere. America wanted the limit put at 250,000 tons and said the United States needed vessels of 10,000 tonnage, not having adequate naval bases abroad. Her delegates, however, in the effort to make the conference a success, offered tentatively to make the maximum limit 400,000 tons.

Then the Japanese, who previously had supported the British desire to have the battleship program revised, surprised every one by coming out strongly against the British cruiser demands. Having received cabled instructions from Tokyo, Admiral Saito announced that the original minimum American figures of 250,000 tons as the maximum cruiser tonnage for America and Britain were quite acceptable to Japan. At the same time he declared the British figures, totaling approximately 600,000 tons, are out of the question so far as the Tokyo government is concerned.

"Japan is anxious to achieve a real reduction and limitation of armaments," Admiral Saito said. "We find the figures in the American plan most reasonable. Japan believes the minimum American figures should be adopted rather than the higher tonnage, which, by promoting construction, would increase armaments. The other suggestions of vastly larger tonnage, which would require the other interested powers to build up to these high levels, would defeat the purpose of the conference."

"We would never dare get off the boat in Japan if we accepted the British scheme," one Japanese delegate said.

Much taken aback, the British delegates said they would look over their figures again to see what possible alterations could be made with a view to further discussions.

Observers in Geneva and official Washington see in the British demand for at least 550,000 tons of cruisers a manifestation of the British insistence on preserving the mastery of the seas. Lord Robert Cecil and his colleagues, they say, are convinced that, though America would be granted parity with England, our congress would not permit the building of so large an American navy for reasons of economy and because the United States has no fear of war with Great Britain. Indeed, Viscount Cecil said as much last week.

"America does not fear us; America knows there is no possibility of war with Great Britain—then why does Washington insist on limiting our navy below the strength the admiralty states we require?" he said. "We must have the cruisers we demand. The admiralty insists they are essential to our defense." Concerning the United States' demand for 10,000-ton cruisers he asked: "But why does America need these boats? What possible potential enemy can she have in mind for such weapons?"

In the experts' sessions concerning submarines the United States won when Great Britain's efforts to have 21-inch caliber torpedoes reduced were rejected and the Anglo-Japanese proposals to divide submarines into two

classes—coast defense craft of about 600 tons and fleet submarines capable of going to sea with a combat squadron approximating 1,600 tons, were abandoned. The experts decided merely to limit the size of the largest submarines and set 1,800 tons as the tentative maximum.

China's voice was heard in the conference for the first time when Chao Hsin-chu, representative in the council of the League of Nations, made this announcement:

"It is repeatedly reported in the press of the Far East that the naval conference may also consider questions relating to China. I therefore have been requested by the Chinese national government and the people to state that the republic will refuse to recognize any decision affecting China which may be arrived at by the present, or any other conference in which China is not represented, participating equally in the deliberations."

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE had a lot of fun last week, mixed up with business. In the first place he celebrated his fifty-fifth birthday on the birthday of the nation, receiving innumerable messages of congratulation, eating a wonderful cake and receiving the mounted boy scout troop from Custer. The lads presented to the President a beautiful bay mare and a complete cowboy outfit of clothing, and he promptly donned the elaborate regalia. Next day, still wearing his cowboy hat, he attended the Tri-State Roundup at Bellefourche. Mrs. Coolidge accompanied him, and they enjoyed hugely the doings of the wild riders, Indians in war dress, cowboys and trick riders gathered from all parts of the West. The Chief Executive had ignored protests from organized sentimentalists against what they called the "commercialized cruelty" of the rodeo. Wednesday Mr. Coolidge put on his chaps and took a long ride on his new mare.

Most important of the week's visitors at the summer White House was Ambassador Sheffield, who conferred with the President on the Mexican situation, reporting fully on conditions in the neighboring republic, and presumably also discussing the question of his resignation. He has been wanting for a year to give up his post and the time may be considered opportune. John J. Garrett of Maryland and Silas Strawn have been mentioned as successor to Mr. Sheffield.

COMMANDER BYRD and the other members of the crew of the transatlantic plane America were the recipients of many honors in Paris, and the commander was awarded the cross of the Legion of Honor. The aviators booked passage for return to the United States starting July 12. Byrd says he plans to lead a two-plane expedition to the Antarctic in the fall which will spend perhaps a year and a half in procuring information about the continent at the South pole. Clarence Chamberlin also planned immediate return to the United States by steamer, having declined to pilot the Columbia back, but Charles A. Levine said he was hunting for a French pilot who would bring him home on the big plane.

GENERAL CHEN and a large part of his Chinese army went over to the Nationalists and as a result the southerners gained possession of most of Shantung province and at last reports were but a few miles from Tsingtao. The northern forces were still holding Tsinanfu, the capital, and a narrow strip north of the Yellow river. Conditions in Shantung were such that Japan decided to send two thousand more Japanese troops from Dairen to Tsingtao, and a hundred military railwaymen and telegraphers also were hurried into that region. This movement further enraged the Chinese against the Japanese and caused them to forget their animosity against the British.

KING FUAD of Egypt, whose sovereignty was threatened recently by Great Britain, went to London on a state visit and was received with great pomp by King George, the royal family and the government. He was accompanied by Premier Sarwat Pasha, and the British foreign office undertook to work out with him a treaty which should settle the rela-

tions between Egypt and Great Britain for years to come. This plan, however, was opposed by Lord Lloyd, British commissioner in Egypt, who believes the parliamentary regime there will collapse before long and that the British will then have to revive the protectorate. King Fuad is entirely subservient to the British, but Sarwat Pasha is said to be under the influence of Zaghloul Pasha, the Nationalist leader, who opposes the surrender of Egyptian claims to independence.

THOUGH stories of counter-revolutionary movements in Russia are often not trustworthy, those coming now are too numerous and too detailed to be ignored. The revival of the Red terror by the Soviet rulers has failed to terrify their opponents and the anti-British campaign conducted by the government does not distract the attention of the population from domestic to foreign questions. In secret meetings held in central Europe the couriers of the counter-revolution reported a tremendous increase in the dissensions among the Bolshevik leaders, with a new man rising in the background as a lieutenant of M. Stalin, present dictator of Moscow policies. He is M. Eliava, formerly a quiet member of the party but steadily gaining influence over M. Stalin, since he, too, is a former Soviet Russian peasant. Meanwhile 50,000 counter-revolutionists have succeeded in smuggling themselves into Russian factories.

AT LAST D. C. Stephenson, former ruler of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan and now a life convict, has told to the authorities his story of alleged corruption in Hoosier politics, and the people of the state are awaiting a grand explosion. Stephenson made his revelations to Prosecuting Attorney W. H. Remy of Indianapolis, and that official declined to tell what he heard until he is ready for action. Indianapolis newspapers asserted that Stephenson "told all"; that he hit high and low officialdom; that he revealed how he managed and paid for the campaign of Gov. Ed Jackson; that he told of ruling the legislature, dictating which bills should pass and which should die; that he played a stellar role in the election of Mayor John L. Duvall of Indianapolis; that he dabbled in the election of a United States senator, and much more along that line.

On the other hand, Stephenson's attorney declared that his client's only charges had to do with the pending prosecution of Mayor Duvall. The ex-grand dragon himself said in part:

"There's a little seat in the chair shop next to me that is vacant, and I expect to have company before long. I have not blown the entire lid off the Indiana situation. Remy did not insist that I do so. The rest will come later, and I promise that when the entire truth is told there will be a clean-up in this state that will startle the country and will benefit the state immeasurably."

REPUBLICANS of New Jersey, in state convention, overrode the decision of their resolutions committee and the protests of the women delegates and wrote into their platform a plank calling for a Volstead law referendum similar to that passed by the voters of New York last fall. The debate was bitter, the final vote being 67 to 18. It is believed the action will have an important bearing on the gubernatorial and senatorial elections of 1928.

The New Jersey Democrats also held their convention and adopted a platform demanding the right to make and consume light wines and beer.

ATLANTIC CITY had one of its most disastrous fires in years. Nearly one block of the famous Board Walk was wiped out and eight hotels and rooming houses went up in flames. More than five hundred persons were made homeless, and many excursionists lost their belongings.

ANNOUNCEMENT was made in an article under New York American copyright that Henry Ford has ordered his publication, the Dearborn Independent, to discontinue all articles hostile to Jewish people. Ford makes a statement which is an apology to the Jews for admitted injurious attacks.

boys has "fallen down" in his studies.

Starr, veteran of ninety or more jumps from every type of aircraft, including the Shenandoah, the Los Angeles, land planes, seaplanes and kite balloons, still keenly remembers his first leap into space.

He had been a witness of a fatal jump a few days before his turn came. And his suspense was heightened by being forced to wait for a companion to leap.

Starr was thankful that the interval

PRINCESS AND FAIRY PRINCE

(By D. J. Walsh.)

PAULINE had just two great interests in life. One was a love for fairy stories that amounted to an enthusiasm to the nth power and the other was the absorbing passion for wandering through old second-hand shops where she bought something new and again.

The fairy tales she no longer read, of course, being grown up and now in the so-called business world. But she never could forget about fairy tales—especially the happy endings, where the girl always was found by the fairy prince and they lived happily ever after. Pauline entertained the secret belief that she, too, would some day meet a fairy prince dressed like an ordinary young American business man.

"But I'll know him for the prince when I see him," Pauline would tell herself with shining eyes as she brushed her hair to a glossy silkiness. "And there'll be no more rushing through breakfast to get a crowded street car; no more lunching in twenty minutes in a cafeteria where a thousand persons can be seated at once, reminding one of—of cows at lunch! No, and there'll be no more rushing after 5:30 to get a seat, and—oh, bah! Instead I'll be getting up in the morning, pulling the shades up high to get the morning sun, running the vacuum around to clean up nicely and cooking delectable little suppers for two—" And Pauline would dream away a few minutes, in which she was the fairy princess pursued by the fairy prince.

But all of that was mere "maybe" dreaming. At the present time Pauline had only a room, third floor rear; a room which she furnished herself and kept tidy to the queen's taste. The various little trifles and curios which she had bought at the second-hand shops needed some sort of cabinet to guard them or at least hold them together. For this purpose Pauline had purchased a hanging wall-case of brilliant red lacquer.

Strangely enough, she had not noticed the long, slender space in the center of it—a space which really needed some tall, slender figure to fill it nicely. After the wall-case was in place she noticed this, but among all the little trifles she possessed there was nothing to fit the space.

The next day being Saturday she set out for her favorite second-hand shop, an excess of 55 cents in her purse. She would find something inexpensive to fill that space while she saved up for some fitting piece to take the central place in her cabinet. There was a tiny wedgewood jar of dull blue with dusty white figures dancing toward a sun dial. The dealer asked only 60 cents for it, which was cheap enough except that she had only fifty-five. There were little figurines, any one of which might have filled the place, but Pauline liked none of them.

"I want—oh, I don't know exactly what I want, but I'll know when I see it," she murmured, "I just want some little thing— inexpensive."

"Say, you want a figure?" asked the man shrewdly.

"I have just the thing—and—and—I'll give it to you," he said excitedly. "Here—take it!"

He held up a tiny Buddha figure, which was very ugly and very heavy and—strangely enough—the exact size to fit her space.

"You not—what you call—superstitions?" he asked anxiously. "It bring bad luck. I have it three days now and," he shrugged, "not one sale. Bad-luck Buddha, they call him. A man in Minneapolis sent him to me. A man in Fargo sent it there; Seattle was before that—and bad luck, bad luck, bad luck fellow been everywhere! I—I am not what you call superstitions, and so I told my fren', but—three days and not a sale! You take heed? I give heed to you"—he lapsed into broken English and dropped his head on his chest.

"I can't take it, but I'll pay—what? Fifty cents?"

"A quarter," said he magnanimously. "The man in Fargo was—killed. The man in Minneapolis found a bomb—just in time—take heed—a gift."

But in the end Pauline triumphantly carried home the little figure and still had 30 cents in her purse. It was very, very heavy, considering its size. The shop owner reluctantly agreed that it looked to him like solid silver, but in spite of that fact he was delighted to be rid of it. He even followed her to the door and said doubtfully that he hoped nothing ill would befall her as he liked to keep his regular customers!

Even that, however, failed to dampen Pauline's enthusiasm. She scrubbed it good with her hand-brush in the bathroom before she put it into the red lacquer case. Then, cross-legged, she sat on her little bed and day by day

that turned into a regular bed at night and surveyed it. Then she shook her head in bewilderment. Why that had been said to bring bad luck was past all understanding. Mutely sat the Buddha regarding something in the air before him. A banging on her room door startled her.

"Come," she said with an ease which she did not feel.

The door burst open and a red-headed young man stood there blinking at her in the light to which his eyes were as yet unaccustomed after the dimness of the hallway. "Got that Buddha?" he demanded hoarsely.

"Right here," she said, indicating the silver figure in the case.

He ran toward it, lifted it down and then mopped his face with his handkerchief. "It's all right," he said, "it's all right!" He twisted the nose of the Buddha now and the face parted from the backhead. He sank down on the floor, did this red-headed young man, and from the interior of the silver figure dropped dozens and dozens of glittering gems.

"Just like a fairy story," murmured Pauline in amazement.

The red-headed young man smiled widely. "You've said it and—" he looked at her now with a long, long look. One might have thought him incapable of moving his eyes. "I—I've chased after this silver Buddha—over two continents and now I've found it and—and you, too."

Pauline stared at him.

"You'll get twenty thousand out of this," said the amazing young man. He looked quickly at her left hand, bare. "I'll—I'll be back—you'll be here in an hour?" he begged.

"We could take in a movie. Old Crader told me where you lived and I—say, I got up here in just no time. Sacred jewels these are—worth a fortune outside of their intrinsic value—and—you'll be ready—in an hour?"

Pauline felt like the last scene in a "movie" thriller and as he rose to his feet she took the card he held out. She glanced at it only when he was at the door. On it it said:

F. PRINCE

Royal Detective Agency. She went to the door and called softly: "What—what is your first name?"

"Fred," he called back. "Why?"

But Pauline did not tell him until a long time afterward anything about the princess and the fairy prince.

Trodden by Pioneers

A century after the first settlements in America were established it was evident that the future of the country depended upon overcoming the barrier of the Appalachian mountains and the great forests that clothed them. New colonists pushed inland along the rivers and later struck into the mighty forests from the head of navigation. They followed the Indian trails which they found, and these trails came into general use. Thus Nacolin's path, which Washington followed on his mission to the French (1754), was the forerunner of Braddock's trail (1755) and the National road. The Kittanning path up the Juniata to the Allegheny furnished the route of Forbes' trail (1758). The Warrior's path through the Shenandoah valley through the Cumberland gap to the falls of the Ohio became Boone's Wilderness road (1769), over which Kentucky was settled, and the Iroquois trail from Albany to Lake Erie developed into the Great Genesee road.

And Garret Rent Free

The West Virginia legislature has established the post of poet-laureate for that state and fixed the salary of the incumbent at \$900 a year. That seems like a heap of money for a poet. The state will have only itself to blame if it turns the head of some promising young artist. Given \$900, a poet who isn't too prolific can buy all of his copy paper, typewriter ribbons and postage; and outside of that he will have nothing to do but work for a living.

Sheep-Killing Dogs

After a dog has once killed sheep it seemingly becomes a mania with him and he is seldom, is ever, broken of the habit. He not only destroys sheep himself, but leads other dogs to do so. No consideration should be given to such a dog. If additional losses from the source are to be avoided, the dog should be killed as soon as his habit is known.—Exchange.

A Small Lock

In the days of Queen Elizabeth, Mark Scallot, a blacksmith, made a lock consisting of 11 pieces of brass, iron, and steel, all of which, together with the key, weighed but one grain. He also made a gold chain with 43 links, and when he had finished it he attached it to the lock and key, put the chain round a flea, and that nimble insect easily drew the lot.

Olympic Victory

The first Olympic team that ever represented the United States in the revival of the Olympic games at Athens, won its first victory April 5, 1896.

Story of the Colosseum



The Colosseum at Rome.

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

IN THE Colosseum in Rome where many hundreds of early Christians were crushed by wild beasts under the sanction of an ancient Roman government, Rome's present-day government recently replaced a huge wooden cross commemorating the martyrs. The cross, originally placed by Pope Benedict XIV in 1749, had been absent since 1892. This great amphitheater, shown in innumerable pictures, is probably the most familiar ruin in the world.

The Colosseum is a monument to a highly civilized people's brutality—a depth of brutality that is hardly conceivable from the point of view of the Twentieth century. The huge structure was built deliberately to furnish the best facilities for three classes of spectacles: fights to the death between armed men, fights between wild beasts, and fights between men and beasts.

Gladiatorial combats had developed from customs of primitive Roman days when on the death of a man of note, all his slaves were slaughtered as human sacrifices during the funeral rites. It was really a step forward in a way, though a feeble one, when it was decided to have the slaves fight so that only half would be killed. These slave combats came to be staged in the forums and were viewed by the populace from temporary wooden seats.

Began by Vespasian.

The first permanent amphitheater was built in 29 B. C. in the reign of Augustus, of stone and wood. In 57 A. D. Nero built a wooden one which burned a decade or so later. In 72 A. D. Vespasian began the greatest of amphitheatres, which the world has come to call "the Colosseum." No short cuts were taken as in the building of many other amphitheatres, where mounds of earth are thrown up and faced with stone or concrete. The vast Colosseum was built from the ground up, and far below ground, out of masonry. Few single structures, until the day of the super-skyscraper of America, have contained as great a cubic volume of stone and brick and concrete as this elliptical grandstand of old Rome, built for the spectacular slaughtering of man and beast.

Begun by Vespasian, work on the structure was continued under his son, Titus. It was the latter who sacked Jerusalem. Twelve thousand of the many Jews captured at that time were set to work to complete the great building. With its dedication in 80 began one of the goriest chapters in the story of Roman amusements. The celebration of its opening lasted 100 days. Thousands of wild animals and hundreds of men were slaughtered to make this gigantic "Roman holiday."

The Colosseum is not quite so large in area covered as the modern football amphitheater. The elliptical arena (named from the sand that was spread on its surface to absorb the blood of its victims) is in round numbers 280 feet long and 180 feet across; while the rectangular playing space of a football field is 300 by 200 feet. To enclose such a playing field, allowing a margin outside the gridiron, a football amphitheater must be 350 feet or more long and about 250 feet wide, inside dimensions.

Its Walls, Arches and Seats.

In most modern athletic amphitheatres the seats rise on a relatively gentle slope and the highest are seldom over 50 feet above the field. In the Colosseum the slope was steep—approximately 45 degrees—and the outside wall of the structure towers 160 feet above the ground, or approx-

mately to the height of a 15 or 16-story office building. The outer wall was built of great blocks of stone, while the interior was mostly of brick and concrete. The outer wall was made up largely of arches in three tiers, one above the other, and extending side by side entirely around the building. The arches on the ground level were numbered, and through them the Roman populace poured on the way to the spectacles.

The choice seats were those closest to the arena. From them one could lean over to tease the tawny lions who could leap almost, but never quite, to the top of the protecting wall; and from them one could almost feel the air of swishing swords hacking at the heads of the gladiators. In these preferred positions sat the emperor on a slightly raised dais, and below and to the sides, senators, leading patricians and the Vestal virgins, the young priestesses of the Temple of Vesta, who were so carefully nurtured and guarded by Rome. Many a time the thumbs of these young women gave the final signal which determined the death of a wounded gladiator.

Next above the senators sat patricians and other citizens in a dwindling scale of importance. All but the top-most seats were numbered and tickets were provided. For places in the unnumbered section the less fortunate had to wait in line, sometimes all night, as is the case of world-series fans in America today.

Grim and ghastly as the purpose of the Flavian amphitheater was, it was in no sense crude. It was a marvel of solid construction admirably fitted to the uses to which it was to be put. Beneath the arena in chambers and passages were concealed ingenious mechanisms by means of which sections of the floor could be raised or lowered, popping animals or men unexpectedly into view or removing them as quickly. Also the entire space could be flooded for naval combats.

Fortress in the Middle Ages.

For nearly four and a half centuries the Flavian amphitheater played its bloody role in Roman affairs. It was not without mishaps that might have put it in ruins much sooner had not Rome still been a going civilization. It was twice struck by lightning. In the Second century and twice injured by earthquakes in the Third; but each time it was restored, and the long series of deaths in its arena grew even greater.

After Rome's fall, in the turbulent Middle Ages, the old amphitheater, then the Colosseum, was used as a fortress by one of the family factions of Rome, the Frangipanis. In these times, too, it was robbed of the iron clamps of the outer wall which held the stone blocks together. The outer walls that stand today are deeply pitted because of these depredations. In 1349 an earthquake shook down a large part of the weakened outer structure. There was no power able or interested to restore it, and the ruin of the building then definitely set in.

For a long time after this the Colosseum was a quarry. Thousands of tons of travertine, marble, and other materials were dug out of the fallen pile or stripped from the portion still standing, and carried off for use in building many of the palaces and churches of Renaissance Rome.

Only a little more than half of the original structure now stands, considering the entire cubic contents of the masonry. But most of those who have viewed it feel that the part is much more majestic than the whole.

Trains Navy Men to Make Parachute Leap

Lakehurst, N. J.—Alva F. Starr has helped a hundred men "to die—and yet live." Starr is "professor of high education" at the navy's only parachute school.

His latest class of eight has just proved itself competent of packing parachutes and jumping with them. And the "professor," who, in navy parlance, is chief boatswain's mate, feels justifiably proud that none of his