DOINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Section of Pittsburgh Is Shattered by Explosion of Gas Tanks.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

THREE huge storage tanks of the Equitable Gas company in Pittsburgh blew up and an entire section of the city, at the point where the Allegheny flows into the Ohio river, was wrecked. The total number of lives lost may never be known, but it probably was forty or more; hundreds of persons were injured. In the immediate vicinity of the gas works large industrial buildings were totally ruined, as were a number of tenements where women and children were among the victims. The force of the explosion was felt throughout the city and nearly all the glass in the downtown section was smashed.

Cause of the disaster was found in the blunder of some one who ordered workmen to repair the largest of the three tanks while it was partly filled with gas. One man was using a blow torch when the huge basin, which stood 75 feet above the ground, was blown apart and a great sheet of flame shot a thousand feet upward. A second tank holding 4,000,000 cubic feet of gas and situated about 200 feet away was crushed in, its contents ignited, and a second mighty blaze went up. A third tank, several hundred feet distant, of 500,000 cubic feet capacity and partly filled, was burst asunder by the force of the explosion and its contents added to the vast breath of flame that could be seen for

THOUGH the Colorado coal miners' strike seemed to be slowly waning, the prospects for bloody fighting increased last week. After several days of intermittent picketing at the Columbine mine, the only coal property still operating in the northern Colorado fields, its owners informed Gov. W. H. Adams that the pickets would be shot if they set foot on the property. Machine guns were mount-ed behind barbed-wire entanglements, and the gunners had orders to shoot any trespassers. A large band of pickets led by a woman were turned back Wednesday by these warlike preparations. Meanwhile the I. W. W., through their official paper, were calling for "all footloose rebels" in the country to flock to Colorado to aid

Officers in charge of state police sent an appeal to the governor for fifty more men to meet any contingency. The situation was described as "acute" by William H. Young, a member of the state industrial com-

Gov. John S. Fisher of Pennsylvania told representatives of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor that he would investigate charges they laid before him of the usurpation of power by coal and iron police and of partiality by state police in the strike district of the bituminous coal region. The committee which conferred with Governor Fisher made arrangements to see President Coolidge at the White House to discuss conditions in the bituminous fields of western Pennsylvania.

COL. CHARLES A. LINDBERGH was the central figure in a re-markable gathering of aviators in Washington. The men, and one woman, who have distinguished themselves by overseas air flights were entertained at luncheon by the President and then went to the Auditorium where before an audience of 6,000 "Lindy" received from the hands of Mr. Coolidge the Hubbard gold medsi of the National Geographic society, a trophy that has been presented to only seven other men. Justices of the Supreme court, members of the cabinet, of the diplomatic corps, and of congress were in attendance, all joining in the cheering and applause.

The famous flyers present included Lieuts. Lester J. Maltland and Albert Hagenberger, first to hop from San Francisco to Hawaii; Clarence D. Chamberlin and Charles A. Levine,

who flew from New York to Germany; Ruth Elder and George Haldeman; Bert Acosta, Berndt Balchen and George Noville, who flew with Com-mander Byrd to France; William S. Brock and Edward H. Schlee, who crossed the Atlantic to London and then flew by successive stages across Emope and Asia to Japan.

Capt. R. H. Macintosh and Bert Hinckler, English aviators, started from Upavon, England, in an attempt to break the distance record for nonstop flights held by Chamberlin and Levine by flying to Karachi, India, a distance of 4,000 miles. At this writing the outcome of the venture is not

Sir Alan Cobham, with a crew of six and accompanied by his wife, began a flight around Africa to show the possibility for communication between the various parts of the British empire by air.

F THE story told by William J. Mc-Mullin, a Burns operative, is true, there was a deliberate and elaborate plot to frame the government in the Fall-Sinclair case and to force a mistrial. According to his statements he revolted at the plan of falsely accusing Assistant Attorney General H. R. Lamb of attempting to influence Juror Glasscock, and told the whole story to Gifford Pinchot, who in turn communicated it to the government counsel. McMullen was directed to "play along" with the Burns men and to report their activities to the district attorney. This he says he did, and the whole alleged plot was then revealed to the grand jury. That body also heard W. J. Burns, head of the detective agency, and his son, W. Sherman Burns, who declared the story told by McMullin was false. Justice Siddons, who presided at the Teapot Dome trial, appointed a committee of lawyers to determine whether those involved in the jury fixing scandal should be cited for contempt of court.

The government also undertook to bring about the punishment of Harry M. Blackmer, a millionaire oil man, who fled to France several years ago rather than testify in the Sinclair-Fall conspiracy trial. An order entered by Justice Siddons directed Federal Marshal E. C. Snyder to seize \$100,000 worth of Blackmer's property wher-ever it may be found within the United States and summoned Blackmer himself to appear on January 6 to show cause why he should not be held in contempt and his property confiscated.

CHINESE students and workingmen created disturbances at Yeungkong, 150 miles southwest of Canton, making demonstrations against American workers and an American mission. The United States gunboat Asheville was sent there from Hongkong by the commander of the south China, patrol. The Chinese military forces arrested leaders of the mobs, but there was fear of further trouble.

The Labor party under Chang Fatfui attempted to seize Canton there was long continued street fight-Martial law was declared and the gates of the foreign settlement were closed.

Nanking Nationalists gained a big advantage by the collapse of the radi-cal faction at Hankow and its abandonment of that city. The region was immediately overrun by Kwangsi men belonging to the Nanking party. In the struggle of the southerners with the northern armies the former are reported to have met a severe defeat north of Mingkwang. However, Feng. the Christian general, won a three-day battle against Marshal Chang's forces in Shantung province.

WITH the aid of 102 lawyers, Mihail Manoilescu, former undersecretary of state of Rumania, won acquittal in his trial by court-martial on charges of plotting to place former Crown Prince Carol on the throne. The defense, engineered by General Avarescu, bitterly attacked Premier Bratiano and his policies and the result of the trial was admittedly a severe blow to that dictatorial official. One of the defense witnesses an eminent historian, declared: "Onefourth of the country is against Prince Carol, but Rumania is 75 per cent Carolist." The government fears an uprising of the Carolists, and hurriedly put through parliament the new na-tional defense act, which provides persons who "by word or deed" directly or indirectly seek to overthrow the present monarchical regime.

MOULAY YOUSSEF, sultan of Morocco, seventeenth ruler of his dynasty, died at Fez, chief of his four capital cities. He was the son of Sul-tan Moulay Hassan and succeeded his brother, Moulay Hafid, in 1912, holding his throne since 1923 under the French protectorate and residing usually in the French zone. He was only forty-five years old but had been in bad health for some time.

THE British government had rather an unpleasant time last week. Its coal policy was attacked in the house by the Labor-Socialist opposition which declared the government had neglected the difficulties of the industry and demanded immediate action to secure an efficient organization. The Laborites insisted on a reply from Prime Minister Baldwin and would not listen to Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, president of the Board of Trade. They created such a disturbance that the speaker

was obliged to order an adjournment. In the house of lords Viscount Cecil attacked the government's attitude toward disarmament, and asserted that its refusal to admit the principle of mathematical parity in naval strength with the United States "bangs, bolts and bars the door" against any hope of agreement with America on naval armaments. He blamed Winston Churchill for the failure of the Geneva conference. W. C. Bridgeman, first lord of the admiralty. announced that in view of the situation disclosed at Geneva it was not thought necessary to proceed with the three cruisers originally provided for in current naval estimates and therefore only one would be laid down.

TALIANS, who deeply resent the new Franco-Yugo-Slav treaty, believe France is arming the Serbs against Italy and have been "demonstrating" before the embassy and le gation of those nations in Rome. Dispatches explain that enormous orders for steel, leather and wood are being placed in Germany by the French on their reparations account. The goods are delivered to French agents at the frontier and shipped to Yugo-Slavia. The Germans are delighted over this development as each mark's worth of goods which is delivered to France frees them from delivery of a mark in cash under the Dawes plan.

OUR little tiff with France over tariff rates is virtually ended. French Minister of Commerce Maurice Bokanowski said that the United States had agreed, after the conclusion of a provisional agreement, to study the possibility of a reduction in American tariff rates based on a comparison of American and French costs

LEVEN cities have applied for the honor of having the Republican national convention next year. They are Chicago, San Francisco, Detroit, Cleveland, Kansas City, Omaha, Denver, Seattle, Minneapolis, San Antonio and Philadelphia. The winner will be picked by the national committee when it meets December 6. Just now it looks as if San Francisco would be selected, but Detroit also has strong backing. Chicago is said to have little chance because of Illinois candidates for the Presidential nomination.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, whose duty it often has been to decorate others, was himself decorated Thurs-day evening in Philadelphia, receiving the Union League's gold medal for distinguished public service and a certificate of membership in the club. The occasion was Founders' day, and the President delivered the chief address at the banquet. Two other Presidents, Lincoln and Johnson, have received the club's medal, and Harrison, McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft were made norary members.

FOUR men attempted to assassinate H General Obregon, Presidential can-didate in Mexico, with bombs, but the general escaped with cuts on his face from broken glass of his automobile windshield. Three of the assassins were caught, two being wounded by

bulk shipping, says E. N. Bates, investigator for the federal bureau of agricultural economics, harvesting and handling as well as marketing

lieved of the yearly sacks and twine bill. High-priced labor for sewing and handling the sacks is eliminated. Grain in bulk can be cleaned and conditioned in the country, saving freight on dockage and enabling the farmer

BOARDERS WANTED-CAME

(C by D. J. Walsh.)

ARY CARMAN was pale as she finished reading her son's letter. Fred was a good boy; he wrote every week and came home whenever he could, al-though his work kept him confined pretty steadily in the city. As usual, he had tucked in a \$10 bill for expenses. Mary owned her house, but she had almost no money aside from what her son sent her. And Fred would not let her earn by taking

But this letter-Mary read it again slowly, dwelling upon each word. Yes! It was what she had always expected some time. Fred was going to be married.

That letter changed the whole course of Mary Carman's life. "A son is a son till be gets his wife." The old saying was true enough. She had seen it again and again. Son married — daughter-in-law unsympathetic — mother gradually neglected. Of course Fred had a right to happiness. It was only that—that she felt as if she had lost her son.

She sat there behind the white curtains and geraniums of her living room window with the letter in her lap, crying. And Mrs. Binner, stepping through The back door, caught her at it.

"Why, Mary Carman! What's the matter-Fred sick?" noticing the let-Mary tried to laugh as she wiped

"He's going to be married."

"Married!" Mrs. Binner plumped her 211 pounds into a protesting rocker. "Well, you know what that means as well as I do-who's the girl?"

"Her name is Helen Branch. She works where Fred does. They're going to be married soon. And of course they'll live in the city, though he didn't say."

"Bobbed hair, paint, cigarettes, maybe," Mrs. Binner sniffed. "Well. what can't be cured must be endured. "Oh, Fred wouldn't choose any but

a nice, sweet girl," his mother said. "My dear woman! You don't know what he'd choose. Take a country boy, brought up as carefully as he's been, he'd be too innocent to know what he was getting."

Mary was glad when Mrs. Binner departed. She felt she had stood all she could.

She sat looking about the room. It was full of simple, intimate treasures. The whole house was furnished with things that had belonged to her moth-er and her grandmother. She had hoped to pass these things on to Fred's wife. But a city girl, a business girl, would not care for such things. She would want overstuffer furniture and etchings. Well-Mary felt she had a much graver problem still to consider-how was she going to live? Fred's salary could not sup port two establishments. Probably they would offer her a home with them. No! She would have to do something to support herself. She would have to take boarders.

When daylight broke on the quiet street there was to be seen by early passersby a card in Mrs. Carman's crystal-clean front window: "Board-ers wanted." It was looked at with surprise.

Late that afternoon Mrs. Carman again sitting at the window behind the white curtains and geranium saw two girls coming down the street. They wore simple, dark clothes and one carried a single bag, the other carried two bags. They were looking for somebody. When they saw the card in the window they paused and consulted together. Then they mount ed the steps and rang the bell.

"Do you really take boarders?" the dark-eyed girl asked as Mary opened the door. "And-and would you take

"A few days?" finished the blueeyed girl, who seemed to have a hard

The sight of the blue-eyed girl's nose decided Mary Carman and she asked them in. The best room was made ready-aired, with fresh sheets spread, snowy towels distributed. The girls seemed delighted with it.

"Now, there's a book for you to read. Peg." said the dark-eved one. "You're to stay in when it's warm while I bustle to make a few sales,"

She was gone with the smaller bag Carman made biscuit, made s chocolate cake, opened a jar of straw berries, creamed potatoes, shirred some eggs. She was lifted out of her depression. And the rate of \$10 a week was the pay the girls insisted

The dark-eyed girl came back at six and reported excellent sales.

Here's a sample for you. It's really

"I'm sure it is, or-or you wouldn't be selling it," Mary returned warmly. The girl poised her pencil over the page of a small book.

"I'll just dot down your name if you will give it to me, please," she said in a businesslike way.

"Mrs. Mary Carman." The girl looked up at her with something like a start. Next instant she

It seemed the blue-eyed girl called Peg was really quite sick with her cold. Mary Carman made her a cup of hot lemonade, rubbed her throat with camphorated oil and put a hotwater bag to her feet.

"She'll be better in the morning, I'm sure,' said the dark-eyed girl called Scotchy.

But Peg wasn't. She had to stay in bed. Meanwhile, Scotchy hustled to make sales. She took the bus and went as far as Freeport. Coming in at half-past six, hungry but successgreat state of excitement.

For Fred had come home on the afternoon train. He had decided that the letter didn't explain enough and he wanted to talk with his mother. Scotchy bounced in upon them. a

strand of loosened hair whipping one rosy cheek. As she saw Fred she gave a gasp

and dropped her bag. As Fred saw her he sprang forward and caught her hands in his "Helen! To find you here!"

Mary Carman merely stood and

"Well, this place happened to be on

Peg Payne's route and-"

"But what on earth are you doing here with my mother?'

"Boarding, dear child!" Helen Branch smiled over her shoulder at Mary. "We had to board somewhere. Of course I didn't know this dear little lady was your mother, even when she told me her name. And, anyway, she had a card up, and Peg was half sick with that awful cold."

Mary came forward. "And you're just as tired as you can be, my dear. Don't you see she is, Fred?"

"Well, it's hard work selling ten." Helen said. "I wouldn't choose to do it for a steady job myself. But I had to help Peg out. Besides, I thought I might see your mother if I came down this way. I thought it would be a good thing for us to get acquainted without any assistance from you, Fred. If she'd had your picture anywhere I would have seen it and known, but there was only that' -she pointed to the wall, to a faded crayon-"and that doesn't resemble

It was all very surprising and de lightful after the first crowded moment. For Peg was better and Fred was there and Mary Carman found Helen Branch was just us lovable as the unknown Scotchy had been. Beinto business with the money he had saved and he and Helen were to live with his mother in the old house.

Next morning early passersby no ticed something different about Mary Carman's house. The card, "Board-

French Women as Porters

Nearly all old women do the heavy work of porters in Dieppe, France, in the fish markets and on the beach, where they carry loads of stone, weighing 150 to 200 pounds on their

These women plod from the fishing boats to the market and from the beaches to the dumping grounds, carrying heavily toaded baskets. Their cheery countenances indicate that they are not overburdened. The stones are exported to England for the manufacture of porcelain. They must be carried through sliding slingle up a steep grade to the carts. Here the carriers dump their loads by making a deep bow and allowing the stones to rush out over their heads .- Exchange.

Clock Plays Many Tunes

A clock that plays tunes has just been put on display in London. Every part is bandmade and engraved, and the timepiece is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world. It is a perfect timekeeper, chimes every quarter of the hour on eight bells and at the hour, after striking, plays one of six tunes on 14 bells, concealed in a gilt wooden box. The tunes are "Auld Lang Syne," "The Blue Bells of Scotland," "Robin Adair," "Caller Herrin," a Scotch reel and the Scotch nain Glasgow, and required two years to construct. Some of the parts are minute, and are perfect in detail.

Appreciates His Job Now

spent going to a place where I would have nothing to do; nine days doing it; two days with a headache and a day and a half getting back to where I could do something."

CHINA'S HAIR INDUSTRY



(Prepared by the National Geographie Society, Warhington, D. C.) THE people of China are, and have been for centuries, primarlly farmers. Their chief es-sentials of life—food fuel, and clothing-are mostly of home production. Even in North China, where the

winters are cold, clothing comes principally from cotton raised by the northern farmers, and fuel still consists largely of the grain stalks from the fields that provide the food. The people require but little from the outworld and produce little that they do not consume themselves.

But the old order has been changing. Although the northern people are less progressive than their southern brothers, even among them modern industries have been springing up despite civil strife of recent years. Perhaps none of these infant industries has had a more phenomenal growth than that of making halrnets, which now gives employment to thousands who are providing these articles for millions of women in America and Europe.

Although the industry was intro-duced in China by the Germans only twenty years ago, more than 140,000, 000 halrnets were shipped to America from a single Chinese city before bandits at home and bobbed hair in America curtailed the output, Even now the total annual exports of this product are valued at more than \$10,000,000 With the wholesale bobbing of American locks in recent years, the de mand for hairnets at first fell off; but more recently the use of nets has again increased.

The nets are made by hand and the workers receive about one cent each for making them. The average person can hardly make ten a day. Why It Belongs to China.

There are three important factors that have made the hairnet industry almost exclusive to North China first, a large supply of hair is found there; second, cheap labor is plentiful, and third, the industry requires no machinery and can be carried on

Where will you find more human hair than in North China? Before the rule of the Manchus, the Chinese men let their bair grow rather long and tied it in a knot on top of the head. When the Manchus came, in the Seventeenth century, they wore their hair in long braids down their backs, and as an Indication of subjection forced the Chinese to adopt the same custom.

Probably no other land has a more distinctive national peculiarity than the Chinese pigtall, and, like so many other social customs, it persists long after the cause for which it stood. The revolutionists of 1911 tried to do away with if and ordered that all queues be cut off. Those who objected were in danger of losing head as well as pigtail, and the queues provided a handy means of suspending the heads along the city streets as an effective suggestion that the revolutionists meant business in their attempt to do away with the budge of

the victorious Manchus. In the south, and in large cities in general, the queues did disappear to a great extent, and for a time there was a flood in the human hair market But in North China the law forbidding the wearing of queues was not enforced, and they are still plentiful in Peking and Tientsin, while in some country villages away from the there are nearly as many boys

and men with queues as without. Perhaps one reason why queues have not disappeared more rapidly to because of the many barbers, who depend or combing queues and shaving heads for a living Whatever hair

they can comb out belongs to the naturally, they are not in favor of

Women Save All Combings. Chinese women do not patronize the barbers, but comb their own hair at home. Nothing is wasted, however; the combings are saved from day to is collected, it is sold or exchanged for small household articles. In so places venders travel from house to house, calling out, "Needles, thread and matches exchanged for hair comb-

This raw hair is sold very cheaply. nd, when girls are learning to make nets, is used for practice purposes. Enough hair can be purchased for fifty cents to last a class of sixty or seventy-five girls a month. while they are learning to make nets. soon as they are able to make sai nets, they use prepared hair, which costs as much as several dollars a pound, depending on length and other qualities. A pound of hair will make over 2,000 nets, for a whole gross of The processes of bleaching and dyeing the hair are the most difficult parts of the hairnet industry.

The second factor in the succe the hairpet industry in North China is the almost unlimited supply of cheap labor. Tell a carpenter in this part of the world that his fellow journeymen in America get from \$10 to \$15 a day and he will probably inquire at once how much it costs to go to America. He gets 15 or 20 cents a day in United States currency.

However, it is not men, but you girls, who make hairnets, and course a girl's wage is much less than that of a man. In fact, there is very little in North China that a girl can do to earn money. Few have a chance to go to school, and except during bring the grain on to the threshing floors and thresh it, they find it hard to obtain work. Consequently, when a hairnet company enters a region and calls for girls, candidates are

Good Work for the Girls.

A single net requires the tying of a thousand knots or more, but if a eirl is clever she can make as high as twenty coppers a day, and, as she can live on much less than that, she often not only supports herself, but belps other members of the family as well.

Is it any wonder, then, that fathers and mothers are glad to see the hair net industry enter their villages? Their daughters, heretofore a burden are now becoming the breadwinner

One might naturally ask, "Why are other industries not developed more rapidly in North China, if there is

rapidly in North China, if there such a supply of cheap labor?"

Part of the answer is that m industries require considerable (ital, expensive machinery, and is factories, and, with political cotions as they are in China to capitalists are slow to take the riwith the hairnet industry there no such obstacle. The girls word their own homes, where they

no such obstacle. The girls wor their own homes, where they always been secluded. The outy needed are a small brass shuttle a bamboo splint. On a neil driven a table or chair the first loop of net is fastened. The hair is minto the shuttle, like thread in bobbin, and as each sew loop in it is slipped onto the bamboo splint in the other, the adds knot to knot and loop and until the net is combattle.

Bulk Grain Handling Benefit to Farmers

By handling grain in bulk instead of sacks wheat growers of the Pacific coast, it is authoritatively stated, are saving approximately 10 cents a busnel in operating costs. Sacked wheat has disappeared al-

most entirely from export channels at Portland, and bulk handling is rapidly gaining favor in Seattle. Abandonment of the sack method was advocated by federal market ex-

perts when freight rates West were materially reduced by the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific railways, which carry export wheat from the interior to Vancouver.

Able to place their grain in Pacific ports at a much lower cost, Canadian farmers were in position to take the foreign market almost entirely away from American growers unless eco-nomic strategy made it possible for them to offer their wheat at a cor-

"The farmer," he explains, "is re-

responding price.

By discarding the sack method for of wheat.

explained to Mrs. Carman. "You pre-sent the housewife with a coupon and she calls at her grocer's for a sample.

Here's one man's vacation, as he summarizes it: "A day and a half