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HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Nomination of Hoover by Republicans Outstanding Event of the Week.

THE Republican national convention focused the attention of the country for at least five days of the week. The nomination of Herbert C. Hoover as the Republican candidate for the Presidency, a foregone conclusion before the doors of the convention hall were opened to the delegates, left the proceedings largely a matter of routine, except for the battle over the platform.

The outstanding feature of the convention, seen in retrospect, was the Hoover control of the proceedings. It was supreme; but it was a mannerly, orderly control. No rough stuff. Opponents of the Hoover majority were courteously given ample opportunity to present their side of the questions at issue and no restraint was put upon the delegates when their enthusiasm burst into long and noisy demonstrations, as it did particularly when the nominations were made.

The agricultural plank of the platform, as expected, launched the big fight of the convention. A determined fight on the plank presented by the majority of the committee was made by the western farm leaders.

This plank, formulated after two days and nights of labor in the committee, ignored any mention of the controverted equalization fee of the McNary-Haugen bill, but pledged every assistance in the reorganization of the farmers' marketing machinery. It proposed the creation of a farm board with power to set up farmer owned and controlled corporations to prevent and control surpluses through orderly distribution.

Facing an admittedly losing fight the farm leaders battled earnestly and at great length, submitting only when the majority of the delegates voted approval of the committee report.

A no less earnest but less time consuming battle, and also a losing one, was waged on the prohibition plank which advocated observance and vigorous enforcement of the Eighteenth amendment.

For the first time the radio made the proceedings of a national political convention available to people in all parts of the country. Other conventions have been broadcast, but never before was there a hook-up of broadcasting stations so distributed that anyone with a receiving set anywhere in the country could hear the entire proceedings.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE on Monday night gave his semiannual report on the business of government as it has been handled during the last few years and outlined his policies for the next six months before a gathering of the department heads in Memorial hall, Washington.

"It has been my endeavor," he said, "to manage the national finances as to secure the greatest benefit to the people. I have rejoiced in keeping down the annual budget, in reducing taxes, and paying off the national debt, because the influence of such action is felt in every home in the land." The people, he said, must furnish their own prosperity. It cannot be handed down to them by the government. And when they have it they must rise above it in spiritual outlook.

"Prosperity," he said, "is only an instrument to be used, not a deity to be worshipped."

Reviewing the condition of industry and trade since 1921, he said: "Stabilization and a feeling of security have been the primary factors in the great upward swing of American industry and commerce since 1921."

The tax question, he declared, has been approached from the angle of requiring no more from the people than necessary to operate the government efficiently.

"The revenue acts of 1921, 1924, 1926 and 1928," he said, "when fully

operative will reduce taxes by approximately two billions of dollars a year as compared with what would have been collected if the act of 1918 had remained in force.

"It is inconceivable that in such a short space of time the government could cut its tax rates to such an extent. Yet that has been done. Millions of individuals in the lower brackets have been entirely stricken from the tax rolls. Personal exemption for individuals and heads of families have been greatly increased.

"Preferential treatment has been given to earned income. War taxes and nuisance taxes have been repealed. Business has been freed of many hampering and uneconomic restrictions. The prosperity of today can be attributed in a large measure to the lessening of the burden of federal taxes.

"The reduction which has been made in the national debt since July 1, 1921, has contributed much to the ability of the government to lessen taxes. That reduction at the end of this fiscal year will amount to approximately \$6,327,000,000. The total debt will then be \$17,650,000,000. It is one-third paid. The total saving in interest over all that period will amount approximately to \$950,000,000. The reductions in the debt required by law for the same period total \$3,296,000,000.

"By the end of this fiscal year we will actually have applied to debt reduction \$3,031,000,000 more than required by law. That represents what was saved from national revenue. These, together with refunding operations which converted securities bearing high rates of interest into securities having lower rates, represent a perpetual saving in interest of \$274,000,000 a year.

For the current fiscal year, which closes in a few weeks, the President said there would be a surplus in excess of four hundred million. Estimates are being prepared for 1929 and 1930. On this he said:

"Taking into consideration the legislation enacted during the last session of congress, we find that for 1929 our receipts will be about \$3,707,000,000 and our estimated expenditures \$3,801,000,000. These estimates might seem to forecast a deficit. We must not have a deficit.

"The cost of government in the United States, federal, state and municipal, in 1921 was \$9,500,000,000. In 1925 it had increased to \$11,124,000,000. During that period the national government had reduced its expenditure by two billions.

"The necessity of keeping expenditures within receipts, the importance of continuing our pay-as-we-go policy, cannot be overemphasized. This primary limitation on estimates is the first step toward the continuation of that policy in 1930. It means that there will be no latitude for expansion where expansion is not made compulsory by new law or by conditions that leave no choice. In preparing your preliminary estimates for 1930, which you will submit to the budget bureau by July 15 next, you must keep this in mind."

WELL, he ought not to be so hard to beat," was the only comment of Gov. Al Smith when informed of Hoover's nomination as the Republican candidate for President.

EARL KLINCK, former right-hand man of the klan dragon, D. C. Stephenson, was convicted by a jury in the criminal court at Indianapolis of being accessory in attesting a false affidavit. Conviction carries a one to three-year prison term. Klinck appealed.

Klinck, once a policeman at Evansville, was Stephenson's personal bodyguard. His present predicament followed an attempt to have indictments returned against Tom Adams, crusading anti-klan publisher at Vincennes, and Boyd Gurley, Pulitzer prize editor of Indianapolis, following presentation of a forged affidavit to the federal grand jury at Indianapolis last fall.

UNITED STATES District Judge Thomas B. Thatcher of New York, dismissed the federal suit in equity against the Standard Aircraft corporation to recover \$2,394,438.48, which it alleged had been illegally paid in settlement of war air contracts. A counter claim of the defendant for an

additional payment of \$142,000 also was dismissed.

The case included testimony from former War department officials and officers of the airplane company, which during the war had held contracts for aircraft for the government totaling about \$11,000,000.

THE elimination of President Coolidge as a candidate to succeed himself caused a tremendous crash on the New York stock market Monday. Prices broke from 2 to 25 points. Not since the hectic record-breaking session of March, 1926, has the exchange experienced such wild selling. Marked recovery in prices was shown later in the week.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. COOLIDGE have settled down for the season at the summer White House on the Bruie river in Wisconsin. After a two days' delay in vacation departure, due to the illness of Mrs. Coolidge, the Presidential party left Washington Wednesday night. Mrs. Coolidge had improved greatly, was cheerful and anxious to get started on the journey. The offices of the White House staff have been established at Superior and the President is expected to motor to that city when business requires his attention.

The President is being guarded by regular troops from Fort Snelling, Minn., who are camped about a quarter of a mile from the lodge.

THE price of educating a public school pupil has more than doubled in the last 15 years. It is shown by figures compiled by the federal bureau of education. In 1913 the cost was \$38.31, and the present figure is \$102.50.

Expenditures for public school buildings have almost doubled since 1920, with the peak being reached in 1925 when \$438,000,000 was spent for new buildings. In 1926, however, the annual expenditures for public school buildings decreased \$22,000,000, indicating, the bureau said, that construction had overtaken the shortage caused by the World war.

The bureau attributed the increase in school expenditures to the decreased purchasing power of the dollar and the general improved school facilities.

THE Baltic bitterness, resulting from the unsettled disputes between Lithuania and Poland, remains as the only danger to European peace, was the opinion expressed generally as the council of the League of Nations ended its fiftieth session at Geneva.

Council members made no attempt to conceal their chagrin that the body had found itself unable to liquidate this quarrel. The basis of the dispute is the Polish possession of the city of Vilna, former capital of Lithuania, and recently named anew in the constitution of that country, as the seat of its government.

Members of the council separated with the feeling that the Baltic situation will be either better or worse by September. If the latter proves to be the case, the whole controversy is likely to be thrashed out before the general assembly of the league.

ROBERT W. STEWART, chairman of the Standard Oil company of Indiana, was acquitted by a jury in the District of Columbia Supreme court in Washington on a charge of refusing to answer questions of the senate investigating committee regarding Continental Oil company bonds. Stewart specifically was accused of violating section 102 of the criminal code, which makes it mandatory that witnesses before congressional committees answer questions pertinent to the subject of inquiry.

ONE of the most picturesque figures in the woman suffrage movement, Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, died in a nursing home in London, England, at the age of sixty-nine. Death came after a comparatively short illness.

Mrs. Pankhurst was the first militant suffragist in efforts to obtain the vote for women, millions of whom are now enjoying the privilege of casting their ballots at parliamentary elections as a result of the work of her and her supporters. This early work was often done at great personal risk.

blooming at the time," says the bulletin, "but many details of the process are not fully appreciated. It is impossible to get the disease unless the particular pollen to which the patient is susceptible is floating in the air which he breathes.

"The hay fever subject should first find out to what plants he is susceptible. Any physician can make this test for you providing he is supplied with the dried pollens of the suspected plants, or has extracts of them." Preventive treatment recommend-

ed by the bulletin consists of fifteen hypodermic injections given by a physician at intervals which he will determine.

"The great majority of the cases appearing in the spring are due to the grasses, particularly timothy, and since grasses are all quite closely related, treatment with this one extract usually suffices to immunize against all grass susceptibilities. Likewise the fall type of the disease is almost always due to ragweeds," the bulletin says.

UNCLE ANDY'S WAY

(By D. J. Walsh.)

"**H**AVEN," quoted Uncle Andy thoughtfully, "is for him that overcometh—not him that is pushed there in a wheel-chair."

"I'm afraid then," his niece Mary said lugubriously, "that I'll never get there! Want me to plump your pillow up for you again?"

"Who's wheelin' you to heaven, Mary?" inquired the sick man.

"Nobody—it's the overcoming part of it Uncle Andy. If you can't overcome little things, how are you to overcome as big a thing as Satan?"

"Satan, at his deadliest is sometimes in the form of little things, Mary."

"I'd as soon fight Satan as some of them I've met up with," said Mary. "Take this notion I've always had to fix up my beds—you know what nice beds my mother had, Uncle Andy. But since I've been a married woman I've not had a decent sheet—nor pair of blankets—not even a spread that I wasn't ashamed of—to say nothing of the bedsteads and the old cheap mattresses that won't hold their shape. Henry says nobody sees them back in the bedrooms, so why should I worry? But I tell him we spend one-third of our lives lying in them—"

"Henry spends a good deal more'n a third—"

"But Henry's not lazy, Uncle Andy!"

"No? Who said he was?"

"Of course, I know that I wouldn't want linen sheets and all-wool blankets—and everything like that. Poor people like us don't expect them. But it's that longing for them—to feel them, to iron the sheets; to fold the lovely, soft, woolen plaid blankets; to look at the snowy spreads—I remember how mother would turn her head to one side in pride and satisfaction when she made her bed! Mother came to see me once and went back home and sold the last lot she had left in Grandview and sent me money to fix up my beds with, but Henry took it—I mean we got a good second-hand car with it."

"The one you never would ride in?"

"I guess I did get hateful about it—but I hated for mother to know we'd do such a thing. And once I remember Henry told me that I could have the egg money to buy my clothes with, so he'd never have to hear me complaining when we started to go somewhere or not having anything to wear. Well, I stayed at home for two years and saved that money to buy blankets with. There was a big August blanket sale going on in Bradley and on the very day I'd planned to go, Henry's brother came in from one of his wild-goose chases and he was broke. They had three children to get ready for school in less than a month—so I had to get busy and buy up their clothes with the egg money."

"I suppose you were good and discouraged by then?" snorted Uncle Andy, jerking the covers angrily.

"Yes, I was discouraged; but I didn't give up, I had to save the egg money again for my clothes—for after doing without two or three years I was sorely in need of them. But I struck upon another plan. I started in sewing for people. And in one winter I saved up a surprising little sum. But when spring came the Thompsons, who live there by us, painted their house. Henry said it made our look worse than mud and if I'd take my sewing money and paint our it would save the surface, you know. Does your head ache worse, Uncle Andy? Maybe I'm talking too much—"

"No? Well, as I was saying Henry always told me I was lucky—and maybe I am. Anyway, the fair association offered a prize of \$250 for the best collection of farm products and canned, preserved and pickled stuff, you know. Well, Henry decided we'd try for it. He didn't have time to help, though, for his pa was feeble that year and he had to stay down there a lot. But I thought of all that \$250 would buy for those beds—and I got up the collection. I was mighty 'gig truckered out afterward. But we got that prize!"

"But the beds—did you get the beds?" demanded Uncle Andy peevishly.

"No, I didn't. Henry decided that as the money had been produced by the farm it was nothing but right that it should be used on the farm. He needed new sets of harness for the teams—he got the nicest looking ones with stars and tassels—and the barn needed painting that year, and the pump had to be repaired for the barn well. Hadn't you better take one of those quieting tablets, Uncle Andy?"

"Did you try again?" asked Uncle Andy unmindful of Mary's query.

"Oh, yes! Almost the hardest I ever worked was when the daily newspaper there in Bradley put on a six

weeks' subscription campaign. I got a lovely string of pearls for my work. But just as I was going to sell them to Old Man Briggs for Etta Mae's graduating present—he offered me a fine price for them—Henry decided that Christine, his sister, you know, would feel hurt, knowing I had them, if I didn't give them to her—she graduated, too, that year.

"But do you know Uncle Andy, I still have a chance at some money, and if I should happen to get it I'm going to use it myself this time. The Hastings confectionery in Bradley, there on the corner by Green's House Furnishing company—has offered a prize for the best name for their new candy and a slogan to use in advertising it. Henry says as I've always been kind of mushy and sentimental, my suggestion ought to win it—my goodness, there's the postman—I didn't know it was that late!

"Here's a letter from Henry—and a check! Surely the check's not from Henry. It's signed by John Hastings—why, Uncle Andy, I did win the candy-store prize! Let's see what Henry says about it—he's sending it to me to indorse—they wouldn't cash it at the bank without my name on it. And he's got a chance to trade his old car in on another with a little to boot—a good one that he'll not have to spend all his time working on. He says it isn't as if I had to work hard for this money (but I did wrack my brain for a week, Uncle Andy) and he hopes you are better by now so that I can come on home—all the dishes on the place are dirty and he's run out of clean shirts. And if I can't come, be sure to send the indorsed check back by return mail—"

"But Mary, listen here—"

"Oh, I know what you're going to say, Uncle Andy! That's why I said I was afraid I'd never get there—to heaven, you know! For if I can't overcome—"

"Listen here, Mary! I'm in need of a little money myself. As you've got this here handy you wouldn't mind lending it to me to help me out, would you? I'll pay you back, Mary, as soon as—"

"Of course, you will, Uncle Andy! But Henry would be mad—what on earth would I tell Henry?"

"Tell him you couldn't refuse your old sick uncle the loan of a few dollars that would probably mean the saving of his life—"

"Why, Uncle Andy! Of course you may have it if it means all that!"

Mary Stephens found herself extremely dependent on her way home. She had grown accustomed to Henry's "borrowing"—but she's not expected it of Uncle Andy! She had felt hopeless enough combating with Henry in this cherished longing of her domestic homemaking heart—but now that Uncle Andy had joined forces with him—tears swam in Mary's eyes, the sting of them suddenly arousing; her grasping her handkerchief, she sopped her eyes determinedly.

"I won't give up!" she vowed. "I won't! I'll work my fingers off, first! Not that I care so much after all these years—only for the principle of it—for I won't lie in defeat on those old beds the rest of my life! I'll find a way somehow—I will! I will! I will!"

A week later Mary, leaving the telephone, exclaimed excitedly:

"It was Green's House Furnishing company in Bradley, Henry! They said they had just received a large check from Andy Miller, the amount to be taken up by Mary Stephens in beds and bed furnishings only—"

"What's that you have Henry? . . . Letter from Uncle Andy! Let's see what he has to say—"

"Borrowing your money," Mary read, "saved my life—for if you had turned it over to Henry as you have always done, I would have been to bury. I tried to add enough to it to repay you for nursing me through my sick spell. You know my motto, 'Heaven is for him that overcometh—not him that is pushed there in a wheel chair'—but I've discovered that some folks have so darn much to overcome that they deserve a little wheeling up the last hill—So I don't begrudge giving you a little lift by helping you to overcome Henry Stephens. Give Henry my regards, and tell him I hope he enjoys sleeping in a real bed—and that he must take his medicine like a good little boy. With love, Uncle Andy."

Interesting Relics

A London woman says she has in her possession the first pair of rubber galoshes ever made in that country. They could never have been worn by anyone, however, for each shoe is only two inches long. They were made for the great exhibition of 1851 to show the possibilities of rubber as a waterproof material.

Astronomical

The Naval observatory says that according to the parallaxes adopted in our latest star catalogues, the distance between the two stars forming the bottom of the bowl of the Dipper in Ursa Major is about 650 trillion miles. This should be regarded as only a rough approximation.

Modern Egypt



Freight Barges on the Nile.

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

EGYPT, in a dispute with England, has been once more at the focus of world attention, as she has been many times in the sixty centuries that make up most of known history.

Americans who visit Egypt, know the country chiefly from the city standpoint. They see through the eyes of the extremely polite dragon who escorts them about the streets of Cairo or Alexandria. The man who sweats in the sun on his tiny farm is an entirely different creature. His scale of living is of the meannest.

The peasant population huddle in villages within the confines of four mud walls, homes which literally do not furnish them with a roof over their heads—wretched cabins improvised out of Nile mud, windowless as well as roofless. No modern pots and pans, none of the contrivances and shifts of modern times that go toward rendering life easy and comfortable, and which enable the foreman of a section gang on an American railroad to be better warmed, lighted, and served with news than was Queen Elizabeth of England.

We are accustomed to think of Egypt in terms of symbols—the Sphinx, Osiris, the Pyramids. The country has been a happy hunting ground for the archeologists, and their revelations turn us back through the abysses of time to the contemplation of mysterious figures of the past, whether a sacred bull or King Tutankhamen.

A country of wonders, no doubt; but the wonder of wonders is not the ancient relics dug from the earth, nor the mighty works of men's hands erected upon its surface, but the soil itself—that longish strip of green fringing the River Nile for the better part of one thousand miles.

Nature has dealt in niggardly fashion with the land of Egypt. The country possesses no copper, no iron ore, no forests, no precious minerals, and no good steam coal. It is fairly exact to remark that the country lacks all the prime prerequisites of modern industrialism. Agriculture is virtually the sole source of national wealth. But even in this field the country is extremely limited.

Only a Strip of Habitable Land.

Egypt is practically rainless and only one-twenty-fifth of the land is capable of cultivation. These fertile regions are sandwiched in between the Arabian and Libyan deserts. While the area of Egypt, not including the Sudan, is 350,000 square miles, or about eight times the size of the state of Pennsylvania, only a little more than 12,000 square miles are capable of cultivation.

Over this relatively small strip of habitable land the population swarms some 1,100 to the square mile, whereas the population of Belgium, the densest in Europe, is 652 to the square mile. Yet, despite all this, Egypt is probably the most perfect and extensive farming laboratory that the world has yet seen.

From an agricultural standpoint, the country presents a spectacle of three uniformities—climate, soil, moisture. Except for the region near the north coast, the country is rainless and frosts are unknown. The soil is the same, formed by the sediment from Nile water.

Now, uniformity is precisely the thing which the American farmer lacks. The main factor in crop yields is the weather, and the weather is always the unknown quantity. The Egyptian solves his farming equation by knowing the value of it before he starts.

With the American farmer, agriculture is more or less of a gamble with nature, whereas the Egyptian farmer bets on a certainty. Farming, therefore, in Egypt comes nearer to being an exact science than in any other important country in the world.

Where Man Surpassed Nature.

In ordinary speech, there is always a tendency to personify nature, to observe that nature "does this or that" or works according to some well-ordered plan or design. While the

thought is not exact, we can with some measure of truth speak of nature's intentions about this planet and the life which flourishes upon its surface. For example, we may observe with truth that nature never intended Egypt, a comparatively sterile and drought-beset country, to support from its soil its present population of nearly 14,000,000 people.

The ingenuity of man, however, has contrived by art to supplement the gifts of nature. Nature ordained that the Nile should overflow once a year and flood the agricultural plains of its valley, bestowing at once the twin gifts of moisture and fertility. When the flood has passed and the water has subsided, the farmer sows his seed and grows his annual crop. Traditionally and historically, it is either a feast or famine in Egypt. For a brief season the abounding flood, to be succeeded for the balance of the year by blazing suns and killing droughts.

The ingenuity of man has harnessed the great river by holding back the flood of waters during the freshest season and doling out these hoarded supplies during the lean months of the year. Through this device, streams of living water can be carried every month of the year to the roots of growing plants.

The great stone dam at Aswan is in reality the keystone of modern Egypt. This huge rampart of masonry, which retains a 90 foot head of water, weighing 2,340,000 tons, is pierced at its foot by 180 sluice-gates. These gates, kept wide open when the annual flood is coming down, late in the summer, are gradually closed when the crest of the flood has passed. By January the reservoir is full and remains so during February and March.

When the supply of water begins to fail, in the late spring and early summer, sluices are opened and stored water added to the normal discharge. Great barrages are thrown across the Nile farther downstream. These are masonry obstacles laid across the river's course to raise the water in the stream to the level of the irrigation canals. The Nile barrage, a few miles below Cairo, is capable of raising the water level for the irrigation of the entire delta by as much as 20 feet.

Crops Require Lots of Water.

Perennial irrigation, as has been explained, means an all-year supply of water to the Egyptian farmer. The huge volume of water required for irrigating the porous soils of the delta under the blazing semitropical sun may be put at about 20 tons per acre per day as a minimum. Cotton-growing requires about 25 tons of water daily, while rice culture requires 60 tons.

Man and his works in Egypt have existed only by grace of the river. There has always been something mysterious about the annual rise of the Nile. Such a seemingly slight thing as a reversal of the winds that sweep in summer across equatorial Africa from the Atlantic would cut off the annual flood and lay waste the richest agricultural valley in the world.

But while the annual floods have varied from time to time in volume they have never in recorded history been entirely cut off. The apportionment of the annual rise of the Nile is one of nature's certitudes, as well established and as universally accepted as the rising and setting of the sun.

The ancient Egyptians were continually casting about for an explanation of the annual flood, but they never succeeded in penetrating to the heart of the mystery. There is no longer the slightest mystery about a subject that baffled the intelligence of the ancient world. The White and the Blue Nile, meeting at Khartoum, form the great River Nile. The sources of the Nile are, therefore, dual—the one constant, the other variable.

The White Nile finds a catchment basin in a series of lakes, of which the greatest is Victoria, in equatorial Africa. This lake is some 2,000 miles from the river from where the Nile is considered to begin. While the

Now Is Right Time to Bunk Hay Fever

"Now is the time to start your battle to prevent hay fever rather than in August when the disease is 'in gear,'" says a bulletin issued by the Indiana State Medical association, in which people, subject to the fever, are urged to take preventive measures.

"It is generally known that seasonal hay fever is caused, as a rule, by inhaling the pollen of plants that are