

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Hoover Spends Week in the Capital Conferring and Building a Cabinet.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT-ELECT HOOVER spent the week in Washington conferring with President Coolidge, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and others prominent in the Republican party. Besides discussing German reparations, farm relief, an extra session of congress and other problems, he was presumably selecting at least some of the ten members of his cabinet. But he was firm in his determination not to make public any results of his conferences and cogitations. Washington correspondents were compelled to guess, and they did a lot of guessing.

As to the new cabinet, the guessers were almost unanimous in the belief that Mr. Mellon would retain the treasury portfolio. It was said this was settled even before the election. Soon after his arrival Mr. Hoover had luncheon and a long talk with the financier, probably concerning the European project to liquidate German reparations and the war debts owed the United States. The scolding down of those debts to America was formerly a matter on which Hoover and Mellon were in sharp disagreement. The deep interest Mr. Hoover displays in Latin-America intensifies the belief that his secretary of state will be Ambassador Dwight W. Morrow, who has done such excellent work in re-establishing amicable relations with Mexico. For the same reason some of the correspondents think Mr. Hoover will select for secretary of commerce Dr. Julius Klein, who, as chief of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, helped greatly the expansion of American trade with Latin-America.

That the southern border states will be given representation in the cabinet is taken for granted, and one of the most conspicuous candidates is Mrs. A. T. Hart of Kentucky, a vice chairman of the Republican national committee. She wants the place of secretary of the interior, and last week several Republican congressmen from Kentucky urged Mr. Hoover to give her that place or make her postmaster general. No woman has ever been a member of an American cabinet. The interior department portfolio also was asked for Bancroft Stamp of Virginia. William J. Donovan's claims on an appointment are strong and it was thought he might be made either attorney general or, more likely, secretary of war. One of Mr. Hoover's callers was Senator Smith W. Brookhart of Iowa and it was his purpose to warn the President-elect that the Republican radicals in the senate would make a bitter fight against confirmation of either Mr. Mellon or Mr. Donovan. Semi-officially it was stated Mr. Hoover did not expect to complete his cabinet until just before his inauguration. He was soon to go to Miami Beach for a rest, intending to return to Washington by February 15 to continue that job. This plan will make his projected visits to Cuba, Haiti, Porto Rico and Mexico City rather hurried.

Representatives of agricultural states told the President-elect they would rather have an extra session for the handling of farm relief legislation. They think a more satisfactory bill may be passed under Hoover than under Coolidge, and they would rather have the former appoint the federal farm board. The Pennsylvania delegation in congress wants the extra session also to take up the matter of tariff revision upward.

DEBATE on the ratification of the Kellogg anti-war treaty brought out a lot of oratory in the senate, the most persistent speakers being those demanding reservations and interpretive statements. Pacifists were given credit for delaying action on the treaty, their idea being that this would help them in defeating the 15-cruiser naval bill. Senator Borah was confident that there were enough

votes for the treaty without reservation or interpretation. In the house right-of-way under special rule was given the bill for re-apportionment of the house membership on the basis of the 1920 census. The measure, which is sponsored by Chairman Fenn of the census committee, would divide the representatives by the major fraction plan, which would result in the loss of about twenty-three representatives by some states and an equal gain by others, particularly those in the Middle and Far West, where the population has greatly increased since 1910. The last time an apportionment was made on the basis of a population of 91,641,107.

MICHIGAN'S "life for a plant" law and the plight of its latest victim, Mrs. Etta Mae Miller, stirred up a lively clash in the house. During the debate, precipitated by a dry defender of the Michigan code, was seized the opportunity to compare the alleged past record of Mrs. Miller with the "moral lapses" of Sebastian S. Kresge, millionaire chain store owner and a chief contributor to the Anti-Saloon league.

The same day Senator Harris of Georgia offered an amendment to the deficiency appropriation bill adding \$50,000,000 for prohibition enforcement, and he said if this was defeated he would submit a similar rider to every appropriation bill brought to the senate.

In Ottawa, Canada, a conference on liquor smuggling was being held by delegates from the United States and the Dominion, and the former didn't do so well. They tried to persuade the Canadians to refuse papers to vessels seeking to clear for United States ports with liquor cargoes, but the reply of the Canucks was in effect, an inquiry why the United States could not arrange her own laws to handle the problem instead of asking aid from another country. They also quoted former American prohibition officials as saying that liquor smuggled from Canada formed only a small portion of the total amount consumed in the country, and implied, in effect, "Why all the excitement about this small source?"

ALL records for sustained flight in an aircraft of any description were smashed by the army's big trimotored plane, Question Mark, over southern California. Manned by Maj. Carl Spaatz, Capt. Ira Eaker, Lieut. H. A. Halvorsen and R. R. Quisenberry and Sgt. Roy Hoop, the plane was refueled in the air 26 times and flew for 150 hours, 40 minutes and 15 seconds before trouble with two of its motors forced it to a landing at the starting point on the Los Angeles air field. The practicability of refueling of airplanes while en route was demonstrated, and this was said by the army air officers to be the major purpose of the flight. The members of the crew were supplied with food by the fuel planes and came out of the ordeal in excellent physical condition.

Air mail and passenger service between the United States and the West Indies was inaugurated last week by the Pan-American Airways, Inc., operating company for the Aviation Corporation of the Americas. The trimotored plane Havana was left on the route, with distinguished passengers, including Miss Amelia Earhart. At Havana its mail was transferred to another plane which took off for Santiago de Cuba en route to Porto Rico. About the same time the service was started from Porto Rico. Igor Sikorsky, famous Russian airplane constructor, told in London of the plan of himself and others to establish a 48-hour air service across the Atlantic ocean, which will be worked with the aid of four artificial islands to be anchored in the Atlantic.

QUARRELS between the Croats and the Serbs in the kingdom of Yugoslavia have resulted in the addition of another dictatorship to the growing list in Europe. King Alexander, declaring that the parliamentary system had failed completely, abrogated the constitution and dissolved parliament, the land assemblies and municipal councils, and assumed absolute power himself, with Gen. Peter Zivkovic, commander of the royal bodyguards, as his premier. The Croats were at first pleased by the coup, and the Serb politicians were

correspondingly depressed. Later, when it appeared that the military dictatorship would be long lived, none of them liked it so well. The king first clamped on a strict censorship; next he issued an entire new set of laws, completely changing the Yugoslavian jurisprudence, and then he issued a proclamation forbidding all public assemblage in the kingdom. Italy and Great Britain are intensely interested in these developments, and it is said the British government is far from satisfied with Alexander's action.

WHITE RUSSIANS everywhere were in mourning for Grand Duke Nicholas, chief claimant to the throne, who died in Cannes, France. He was a cousin of the late Czar Nicholas II and in the world war made a reputation as a great military commander. His nephew, Grand Duke Cyril, has now become the head of the Russian imperialists.

WORK of the Pan-American conciliation congress in Washington culminated in the signing of compulsory arbitration and conciliation treaties by representatives of the United States and nineteen Latin American nations. The arbitration treaty provides for obligatory arbitration of all juridical questions it has not been possible to adjust by diplomacy. The conciliation treaty provides for conciliation of all disputes arising between the signatory nations which cannot be settled by diplomacy. All nations are bound to submit their disputes to conciliation but are not bound by the decisions rendered. Permanent commissions are established and obligated to attempt to mediate disputes before they reach the dangerous stage. Under this treaty no contracting country can go to war for 18 months without violating the pact.

Secretary of State Kellogg announced the appointment of Brig. Gen. Frank R. McCoy as American member of the conciliation commission which will attempt to mediate the differences between Bolivia and Paraguay.

IF HOSTILITIES do not break out between China and Japan it will not be the fault of the Japanese. The latest trouble is in Hankow. A Chinaman was killed there by a motor cycle operated by a Japanese marine, and the Japanese consul refused to pay the compensation demanded. An anti-Japanese society picketed the Japanese concession, practically isolating it, and the reply of Japan was the landing of a strong force of marines in Hankow. Chinese Nationalist officials filed protests and warned Japan of the danger of serious results, and the Nanking government sent a navy squadron into Taingtao harbor, which is occupied by the Japanese navy.

AT THE inaugural ball in Hartford marking the social beginning of the third term of Gov. John H. Trumbull of Connecticut, John Coolidge, son of the President, appeared in the resplendent uniform of a major, having just been appointed an officer on the governor's staff. Major John and Miss Trumbull, his fiancée, helped Governor and Mrs. Trumbull lead the grand march.

TREX RICHARD, greatest of American sport promoters, died in a hospital in Miami Beach of complications that set in after an operation for the removal of his appendix. His body was taken to New York and lay in state in the New Madison Square Garden which he built, and many thousands of genuine mourners passed before his bier. The funeral ceremony was held in the Garden in the presence of 10,000 persons, among them being prominent sportsmen and celebrities in other walks of life.

Another noteworthy death of the week was that of Benjamin Duke, principal figure in the American tobacco industry.

THE high council of the Salvation Army, meeting in Sanbury, England, adopted a resolution asking Gen. Bramwell Booth, leader of the Army for the last 18 years, to retire from that post because of the condition of his health. At the same time it was made clear that in retirement he would retain his title of general and continue to enjoy the honor and dignities attached to it.

Both the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and the Texas and New Mexico have petitioned the Interstate Commerce commission for permission to extend their lines to the county since a test well revealed the discovery of an oil sand producing 100 barrels daily.

This has been found in the county and its presence causes geologists to believe that all of more than 100,000 acres of land in the county will be found to be rich in oil.

Los county again has a claim because of the prospecting for mineral wealth. There had been two banks in the county, but both went out of business after the drought of 1915 brought financial ruin to cattle men.

Livingston, the county seat, is a rejuvenated city and it boasts that the jail is the only building in town which cannot be leased for a long term.

The most productive oil field in New Mexico is in San Juan county, in the northwest corner of the state. It is nearly opposite Los Alamos.

ALICE AND THE GYPSIES

(By D. J. Walsh.)

KICK-KICK-KICK went the tedder down the long swath. Alice Potter looked with satisfaction at her work, a whole field of grass curing in the hot sun. Her dark eyes sparkled as she estimated the value of the crop. Next winter, when the mows of their neighbors were dwindling, the hay stored in their barn would bring a good price. In fact, her winter's tuition at Gardner High lay at this moment before her.

The Potter family, consisting of six persons, was accomplishing what it had been predicted it could never do—make a living on the small farm beside the creek. Being without exception strong and healthy, they were willing and able workers. David, Alice's brother, managed the farm, while their father, who had been a carpenter before he turned to the soil, worked at such jobs as he could find to do. At present Mr. Potter was building a barn for a farmer, therefore the entire work of haying fell upon David and Alice. The twins, Julia and John, were, of course, too young to lend much assistance.

Glancing in David's direction, Alice saw, to her surprise, that he was leaning on his pitchfork staring at something in the distance. From her seat on the tedder Alice turned to look in the same direction. Down the road came a queer procession—horses, either led or drawing rattle-trap vehicles from which pots and pails dangled and jangled. Every wagon was full of brown-skinned men, women and children clad in colorful garments of red and yellow.

The leading wagon paused and from it a man leaped. "Alice! The twins came racing down the field, their golden heads gleaming in the sunlight. "Do you see the gypsies?" panted Julia. "They stopped up at the house and asked if they might tent here. Mother said they must ask David. Will he let them, do you think?"

Before Alice could reply the chief of the gypsies had reached the spot. He was tall and swarthy with rings in his ears, but rather picturesque in his wide-brimmed hat and brown corduroys. "You let my people camp here by water?" he inquired anxiously. "No, I guess you better move on," David answered ungraciously. "Everybody say the same—'Move on,'" he exclaimed. He made expressive gestures. "I ask here, there, everywhere—'Move on,' they tell me. I can go no farther. We have very sick child with us. We must stop."

"A sick child?" said Alice sympathetically. "Oh, David, please don't refuse him!" David flung his sister a vexed look. Finding encouragement in Alice's words, the chief turned to her. "We make no trouble, miss. My people very honest people," he pleaded. "You can go through the lane there and camp by the creek," David said grudgingly. Then, after earnest thanks, the man moved away. "That sick child business was a mere ruse. You should understand the ways of gypsies well enough to know that, Alice. When father comes home tonight and finds that tribe on our premises, he will be properly angry. You can take the blame. If you had kept still I would never have thought of letting them stop here."

Thus reproved Alice was silent. Already the procession was winding through the lane to the place designated by David. In a short time the queer patched tents were pitched, the horses feeding, a camp fire sending up its smoke and women hastily washing garments in the creek. At dinner David continued to grumble about Alice's interference in the matter of gypsies. She decided, therefore, to see for herself whether there was a sick child in the camp. Hurrying through the meal she plucked a big bunch of nasturtiums from her flower plot and stole away to the creek.

The welcome she received was unmistakably cordial. The women crowded around her with smiles and the children, clinging to their mother's full, swaying skirts, stared at her in shy wonder. Alice could not understand a word of their argot and apparently her English was almost as unintelligible to them. Still she made them understand by signs and gestures that the flowers were intended for the sick child. At that, one of the women seized her by the arm and led her within a tent, where upon a blanket lay a small boy, his dark face flushed with fever. He whimpered when his mother aroused him, but when she pressed the bright gold ornaments in his hot little hands he looked up at her and at the young visitor and smiled.

Alice told David, although she was sure that he would scold her for going into the presence of the sick child. To her surprise he said nothing. As a matter of fact David was troubled over a bit of news he had picked up that noon over the little one-tube radio set he had made himself and which was such a source of fun and information for the whole family.

When at three o'clock a growl of thunder sounded from the southwest Alice gave a cry of alarm. "David! There's a storm coming!" "I know it," David did not pause in stacking hay, although the perspiration was streaming down his tired face. "I heard over the radio this noon that a storm was due. This hay is going to get wet after all our hard work. Maybe we can get a small load or two in the barn, but that's all. Say, Alice, unlatch now from the rake and go up to the barn and get the hay-rigging. Tell mother and the kids to come and help. Hurry! Don't lose an instant."

Alice obeyed swiftly. Springing upon Baldy's back, she urged the slow old horse into a trot. Yet it seemed as if she would never reach the barn, never get Baldy hitched to the hay-rigging. One thought turned over and over in her mind. If the hay got wet it would be spoiled the way it was last year. She saw her year at Gardner high, all her bright hopes and plans for the future fading into impossibility if the hay got wet.

Continual roars from the distance accompanied Alice, as she drove back to the hayfield. Her mother and the twins were hurrying thither. The fire of them began to work like Trojans, oblivious to all else.

"You want help here?" Alice looked up from the great forkful she was trying to lift. The chief of the gypsies stood beside her. She motioned toward the sky, unable to speak.

Instantly the man made some signal unknown to her. In response the gypsies came flocking to the field, both men and women, leading their horses, a score of them, by the mane.

With swift movements the women heaped the hay while the men bound it with ropes deftly twisted from dried grasses. The great bundles were placed on the horses' backs.

A strange sight, that hayfield! Yet inspiring to at least one of the workers. Alice saw with gratitude swelling in her heart that the dark-skinned folk in their gay garments were determined to beat the storm. When the procession started for the barn and Baldy fell far behind, dragging the heavy-laden hay-rigging, a group of women fell to and pushed the wagon along. In the barn the men mowed away while the women hoisted up to them the great bundles. Then back to the field the whole crowd went racing.

As the last bundle of hay found its place under the eaves the rain began to fall. Mounting their horses the gypsies fled to the shelter of their camp.

From the kitchen window Alice watched the driving rain, the darting lines of lightning, heard the pealing of the thunder, which lessened in volume as the storm moved onward.

It was dusk before the rain ceased. The world was drenched and torn. Over the radio David was getting reports of the worst storm of the summer.

Down beside the creek the fires of the wanderers glowed brightly. Presently David and Alice and the twins laden with baskets made their way thither. They were bearing generous hospitality to their guests.

Next morning Alice, awakening from the dreamless sleep of youth and weariness, sprang from her bed and ran to the window. The sun was shining gloriously on the place of encampment, but the gypsies had gone. They had, true to their traditions, stolen quietly away in the night.

"The little boy must have got much better or they wouldn't have moved on, for they knew they were welcome to stay," she thought.

Matter of No Concern
Sociological investigation shows that the suicide rate among divorced persons is four times that among people who remain married. There are no figures available to show the percentage of suicides among bachelors. Evidently sociologists don't care what happens to a bachelor.—Houston Post-Dispatch.

Learned at Sunday School
Little four-year-old Mary had just returned from Sunday school, where the lesson for the day had for its warden text, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not." When she was asked to tell something about what she had learned, she replied: "It was about—I was about let the little children shuffle to Jesus."

Ancient Observatory
A prehistoric astronomical observatory, which it is estimated was constructed in 1181 B. C., has been unearthed at Buzzew (Machlesburg). The observatory is in the form of circles of stones, which served for the observation of the annual circuit of the sun and also as a calendar.

Caribbean Romance



Little Sabu, in the Caribbean.

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

SINCE the dawn of American history, the Caribbean, "that sapphire and emerald sea which creams to white" upon the sands of the magic islands that inclose it, from the eastern coast of Florida to the eastern shores of Venezuela, has been the scene of a romantic and cataclysmic life.

Beneath flaming tropical skies and heavy scudding clouds, earthquakes have tumbled parts of these palm-fringed islands into the hungry waters; volcanoes have spouted fire upon panic-stricken and powerless natives; great navigators and early geographers braved his hidden shoals and treacherous reefs, and buccaniers, hiding like wolves in their lairs among the countless excellent harbors which the islands afford, once were wont to spring upon the gold-laden Spanish galleons, carry off their booty to some lonely island retreat, and there divide the loot to be spent in riot and debauch in the cities of the Main.

Across the routes where once the wealth of the Incas was borne to Spain went American men and materials for one of the most stupendous engineering undertakings in the history of man—the Panama canal.

Whether they were used by the old freebooters as rendezvous and base for their nefarious works, or whether they have lain lazily beneath the tropic sun, the stages for only the most proper activities, there are few islands in the Caribbean waters that do not have an interest for the present-day traveler.

Off the southeastern tip of the St. Kitts lies Nevis, where Alexander Hamilton was born and where Horatio Nelson was married, and to the northwest of it lie the Dutch-owned St. Eustatius and quaint Little Sabu. The latter, barely five miles in diameter, looks from the sea as if it were uninhabited; but tucked away inside the cone of its single volcanic mountain a seafaring people have built their town with white-walled and red-roofed houses, which, with a characteristic Dutch mental quirk, they have named Bottom. Up and down the sides of the mountain to the sea they are content to run several times a day, to engage in fishing.

The Virgin Islands. The waters in the vicinity of the Virgin Islands, from the time of Sir Francis Drake were frequented by sea rovers of every class and description. Because of the numerous islands in the group, Columbus, when he saw them, on St. Ursula's day, named them after his 11,000 virgins.

The Virgins lie less than 50 miles east of Porto Rico. The three principal islands, St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix, as well as many of the 100 or more lesser units of the group are plainly visible from the deck of an approaching steamer.

Life was turbulent in St. Thomas in the days when Edward Teach drove his lean plannets, filled with half-sailed cutthroats—black, white, and yellow—into the pretty harbor at Charlotte Amalie, built his castle on one of its hills, and scourged the seas for the slow-moving, carved and gilded Spanish galleons, which were hauling the wealth of the Indies to Spain.

One of the chief points of interest in the picturesque little town of Charlotte Amalie (now officially St. Thomas) which has one of the best harbors to be found in Caribbean waters, is the castle of this redoubtable king of his kind, known in the sphere of his influence as Blackbeard. As a matter of fact, his queer "castle" looks more like an exotic species of windmill with its arms lopped off.

Not all the Virgin Islands are named after the ladies. There is Tortola, the Isle of the Turtle Dove, and the

da, the "Fat Virgin," and Anguilla, the Drowned Island, because it contains a vast lagoon known as Flamingo pond, one of the few places where this bird of such gorgeous plumage is to be found south of the Bahamas.

Anguilla is skirted on its northern shores by a narrow band of coral, known as Horseshoe reef, making the approach to the island one of the most dangerous along the whole Atlantic. Countless proud bulls have been crushed on its jagged edge. It was this island that put an end to the prailing of Prince Rupert of the Rhine, who left Ireland in 1648 to fight for the English king in the colonies, and that sheltered Sir Francis Drake in the bay named in his honor, when he was on the lookout for the galleons of Spain.

Port Royal in Submerged. On Jamaica, Port Royal was the favorite base of the pirates. But one will look now in vain for the bustling old port. In 1692, in the midst of an earthquake, it was swallowed up by the sea. When the water is calm the coral-encrusted ruins of the old town may be seen beneath the water, even today, and the natives still regale the visitor with stories of phantom ships that are trying to make the port.

One interesting relic remains, however, in Port Charles, a stiff old tower of sun-faded bricks. Some of the officers' quarters and a paved court, so white that it dazzles, are still standing. Flower gardens now encircle its walls; its gun embrasures are hidden by bushes; the birds haunt its crannies, and the lizards crawl lazily over its parapets. Horatio Nelson was stationed at the fort in 1795, when he was twenty-one years of age, and the paved platform which was known affectionately as his "quarter-deck" may still be seen.

Across the magnificent harbor from Port Royal lies Kingston, the capital of Jamaica and one of the most important ports in the West Indies.

Havana, which rose to importance as a convenient port of call for ships passing through the Florida straits bound for Mexico, was frequently attacked and looted. Santiago's harbor, that magnificent "bottle," with a neck of less than 100 feet, sheltered pirate ships while their owners tortured the city's inhabitants and extorted enormous sums from them. Baracoa, Cienfuegos, and Trinidad, the last named one of the earliest fortified cities in the New World, were the scenes of desperate combats.

Just 23 years after its discovery, plates began to harass Porto Rico, where Ponce de Leon, impressed by its rugged scenic beauty, had built at San Juan his Casa Blanca, which, together with the old cathedral in which his bones are buried, may be seen to-day. French privateers shortly afterward sacked the town of San German, and the Carib Indians made a meal of the governor.

One of the most important old ports of the Spanish Main was Porto Bello on the Isthmus of Panama. Despite the fact that Porto Bello has one of the best harbors on the Caribbean west of Cartagena, it plays an inconspicuous role today, due in some measure to the fact that it is exceedingly unhealthy. This condition, however, though hundreds of men succumbed yearly, did not serve to diminish its importance in early days.

Old Panama, founded in 1519, was the metropolis of the isthmus then of new Panama in 1673. It was probably the richest place in all America, since it was the market for the wealth of the west coast, as well as for the spices and silks of the Orient, and kept in touch with the lower world of the east coast through the Chagres river. It had a population of 100,000 in 1671, when the illustrious Henry Morgan captured it.