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HAPPENNINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Hoover's Cabinet Accepted by the Senate—Serious Rebellion in Mexico.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT HOOVER'S first official act of consequence was to submit to the senate the names of eight men whom he had selected for his cabinet. Radical senators were all set to make a fight against confirmation of Andrew Mellon for secretary of the treasury, but, as was explained in these columns some time ago, it was not necessary for Mr. Hoover to send in Mr. Mellon's name, since he is a holdover, so the radicals were circumvented. Making no invidious distinction, the President also omitted from the list Secretary of Labor James J. Davis, the other member of the Coolidge cabinet who was retained.

The senate without hesitation confirmed the eight names submitted. They are:

Henry Lewis Stimson of New York, secretary of state.

James William Good of Illinois, secretary of war.

William Dewitt Mitchell of Minnesota, attorney general.

Walter Folger Brown of Ohio, postmaster general.

Charles Francis Adams of Massachusetts, secretary of the navy.

Ray Lyman Wilbur of California, secretary of the interior.

Arthur M. Hyde of Missouri, secretary of agriculture.

Robert Patterson Lamont of Illinois, secretary of commerce.

After a sharp debate the senate adopted a resolution offered by McKellar of Tennessee ordering the judiciary committee to investigate Secretary Mellon's right to continue in the cabinet without reappointment and to determine if he has violated an old law that prohibits treasury officials from engaging in any business. It was not believed in Washington that this action would bring about results adverse to Mr. Mellon. The secretary of the treasury, it was reported, intended to hold the office for not more than two years.

Since Mr. Stimson is on his way home from the Philippines, where he has been governor general, Secretary of State Kellogg consented to remain in office until his successor arrives in Washington and qualifies. In general the President's cabinet selections met with warm approval.

On Thursday President Hoover issued the call for the extraordinary session of congress, to open April 15. He said in the proclamation that the purpose is "to effect further agricultural relief and legislation for limited changes of the tariff."

During his first days in the White House Mr. Hoover received throngs of congratulating callers from all parts of the country, and also he settled down to the business of conducting the affairs of the nation. He told the newspaper correspondents he desired to continue the periodical press conferences and to develop them in directions that would assist both the press and the President. He conferred with Senator Smoot and Representative Tilson concerning the calling of the extraordinary session of congress for farm relief and tariff revision, and with Attorney General Mitchell concerning the appointment of the commission to investigate the administration of justice and especially the enforcement of prohibition. His emphatic words concerning law enforcement in his inaugural address were especially pleasing to all the church and dry organizations, and they presented him with their felicitations hand illumined on parchment and bound in tooled leather gold embossed. Mr. Hoover desires to place the entire prohibition enforcement machinery under the attorney general. This may require legislation, and the dry leaders in congress are not all in favor of this course.

MR. AND MRS. COOLIDGE, returning to their home in Northampton, Mass., were given an impromptu loving welcome by their neighbors that affected them deeply. Both of them were sincerely glad to resume their unpretentious home life, and Mrs. Coolidge especially seemed gay and happy. To the reporters Mr. Coolidge said, interviewing himself, that he is not going to practice law in Northampton or anywhere else at present; that the several contracts he has made for magazine articles are all he contemplates now in that line; that he will not write a book and will not make any speeches. He will not travel in foreign countries this summer, believing there are plenty of interesting places in the United States to be seen.

Gen. Charles G. Dawes, late Vice President, hastened back to Chicago and at once resumed work in the bank with which he was long connected. He was made chairman of the board. He declined to talk politics but vehemently denied that he intended to run for senator to succeed Charles S. Deneen. On March 28 General Dawes leaves for Santo Domingo as head of a commission of his own choosing to advise the Dominican government on financial problems.

REBELLION broke out in several states in Mexico and speedily reached alarming proportions. A number of governors and military chieftains joined in the movement, directed at the government of President Portes Gil and aimed particularly at what they called "Calles domination." They immediately ordered opened all the churches that had been closed by the Catholic authorities in protest against the religious laws which Calles, while President, put into effect. At first the rebels under General Aguirre gained possession of Vera Cruz and other important cities. Gen. Gonzalo Escobar was sent by the government to Monterey to combat the revolutionaries, but on arrival there he joined the rebels and was made military chief of the movement. President Portes Gil appointed Calles secretary of war, and under vigorous direction the federal troops regained possession of Monterey, Orizaba, and other strategic points. Aguirre in Vera Cruz state was deserted by most of his men, and Escobar was said to be surrounded by three strong armies. The government issued a bulletin predicting the early collapse of the entire rebellion, and dispatches from Ambassador Morrow indicated the same belief.

It was stated at the White House in Washington that the new administration would continue to inforce the embargo on arms shipments to Mexican rebels that was maintained by President Coolidge, but that licensed arms shipments would be permitted to go forward to Mexico City if requested by the Mexican government. The State department said every effort was being made to prevent the smuggling of arms across the border.

THAT fuss over an alleged secret Franco-Belgian military treaty came to an end when the man who sold the document to a Utrecht newspaper was arrested and confessed that it was a forgery. He was set free by a Belgian judge and declared he was really an agent provacateur of the Belgian government. The Dutch journalists passed a motion of censure on the Utrecht editor who published the forged paper.

TREATMENT of racial minorities in Europe was the topic the council of the League of Nations took up when it met in Geneva last week, but there was no prospect of action, for the council felt the problem was too big to be settled now and should be studied by a subcommittee. Sir Austen Chamberlain, British secretary for foreign affairs, said: "The rights of the minorities cannot be separated from their obligations, and they have to show that they have behaved loyally to the country of which they are part and given true allegiance to the country to which they are subject."

INSTEAD of whitewashing Gen. Umberto Nobile for the disaster of the dirigible Italia in the Arctic regions, the Italian court of inquiry censured him severely. The report of the court is divided into three sections. The first deals with the causes of the accident, the second with the behavior of the survivors, and the third with the relief efforts. After stating that the loss of the dirigible was due to error in handling made at the moment of the accident, for which the commander of the expedition must take responsibility, the report passes to a consideration of the charges of cannibalism in connection with the disappearance of Dr. Finn Malmgreen, the Swedish scientist, and the third man with Capts. Alberto Mariano and Filippi Zappi on the Arctic ice.

Regarding General Nobile's action in allowing himself to be rescued first, the report says: "It cannot find plausible justification and it can only be explained, not justified, by conditions of physical or moral depression in which he was found which did not permit him to estimate the just value of his action, even though it was determined by the pressing invitation of Lundborg." Lieut. Einar-Paal Lundborg was the Swedish airman who took off Nobile.

CONDITIONS in Shantung province were so serious that the Nationalist government of China was reported fearful of defeat at the hands of General Chang's rebels and therefore trying hard to arrange a compromise by which further hostilities might be avoided. Meanwhile large numbers of government troops were being mobilized. The commander at Chefoo reiterated the charge that the Japanese were financing Chang.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., was the victor in the dramatic "war of the proxies" which reached its climax Thursday in Whiting, Ind. The final battle ground was the annual meeting of stockholders of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and the man who went down to defeat was Col. Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of directors. With about twice as many shares as Stewart could control, the Rockefeller forces ousted the colonel from the board, replacing him with Dr. W. M. Burton, inventor of the famous cracking process; and Stewart's close friend, L. L. Stephens, general counsel and director, also was put out. Stewart had proxies from 31,336 stockholders, the "little fellows"; but the Rockefeller proxies, though only half that number, were from the rich men and corporations and easily controlled the situation. Stewart had the satisfaction of presenting a report that showed the company had just closed the most prosperous year in its history and he was uproariously applauded by his supporters.

THOMAS TAGGERT, for many years the leader of the Democrats of Indiana, passed away at his home in Indianapolis at the age of seventy-three years after a long illness. Starting business life in a lunch room in Xenia, he became a very wealthy man, and a power in his party both in the state and in the nation. He was given the credit for making Woodrow Wilson President, and Thomas R. Marshall, twice Vice President, said his success in politics was due to Taggart. Moses Edwin Clapp, former United States senator from Minnesota, died in Washington where he had practiced law since leaving the senate in 1917. Among other recent deaths were those of Haley Fiske, president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company, in New York; and of David D. Buick of Detroit, a pioneer in the automobile industry.

JUST before he left office, Attorney General Sargent granted freedom on parole to Thomas W. Miller, former alien property custodian, who was serving a term of eighteen months in Atlanta penitentiary for conspiring to defraud the government in the handling of German property during the World war. Miller was convicted in 1927 and began serving his sentence last April.

IN SUMMING up the work of the late Seventieth congress it is found that it authorized new expenditures totaling more than a billion dollars during the next decade. The chief authorizations included the following:

Mississippi flood control project, $325,000,000.

The 15 cruiser construction bill, $274,000,000.

The Boulder dam project, $165,000,000.

Public buildings and army structures, $175,000,000.

Compensation for German ships, patents, and radio stations, $100,000,000

River and harbor projects, $72,000,000.

Increased capital for Mississippi barge line, $10,000,000.

ONE HAND IN THE HOPPER

(© by D J Walsh.)

JEAN M'ALISTER leaned close to the screen, widening her eyes to the darkness. The 200 feet of her own lot lay between her and the car in the alley, yet she could see the human figures that hurried from the shelter of the dim maple to meet it.

Back in the old four-poster from which the strange hoot of an owl had roused her, Jean recalled the talk that had been going the rounds before she had gone away. Adding to that the gossip she had heard after she had taken the valley train home, her slim fingers touched off twelve names that might be connected with the car.

The business day of Morgansburg began at seven. The last stroke of the town clock was still resounding when Jean walked into the store of George Stayman. George was not only a merchant, he was one of the town fathers as well. His surprise at seeing her showed plainly.

"Good morning, Miss McAllister. After New York our town will seem very quiet to you."

"Yes, but it's nice to be quiet sometimes, and to get a good sleep."

"You must 'a' been tired," cut in a sharp voice, "to sleep in this town. What with them cars signalin', rowdies fightin' and wonderin' if your own men folks is gettin' mixed up in it, I ain't slept a bit for a good while back."

"Why, Maria," exclaimed Jean, smiling at the bulky figure and going over to shake her work-worn hand, "here I was thinking I would get you to help me to get the dust out of my house, and now I just know you will be lying down on the first sofa you see to take a nap."

"La, Miss Jean," a smile breaking through the gloom, "of course I'll help you and be glad, but you know how it is with no police in a town like this. There's no order and there's great carrying on."

"You're joking! Isn't she, Mr. Stayman? Surely we still have a policeman."

"The last one we had proved a problem," said the councilman suavely, "and we like to be careful about the taxpayers' money."

It was on Jean's tongue to speak of her alley when she was checked by Maria's "Humph!" Her soft voice went on ordering her supplies: "The coffee ground medium, please. Can you deliver the order right away? Thank you. And Maria," turning to her, "can you come up when you are through at home?"

"I'll come now and help you get your breakfast."

As they walked along the street, Maria confided: "Old George Stayman makes it sound pretty slick about why they don't have no police, but I guess he knows all about the real reason."

Later on in the day she went in without missing a stroke on the window panes. "Old Deacon Mowbray could have stopped the whole works but they tricked his boy into driving a truck one night, an he never knew what he was hauling until they started to sing that old song they use as a signal."

When she had gone Jean sat by the window and ran over the facts she had gathered. There was no one to do it. Even Rev. John Mansfield, leader of the Law and Order society, had had his hands tied because a minister of the gospel has no civic authority.

"I'll do it myself," she muttered. "If I am a woman, I'm a McAllister one."

With elbows on the sill, chin in her hands, she thought and studied. Suddenly there came the big idea—the fad she had had some time ago for amateur photography. She soon had everything in readiness.

Through the gathering dusk she slipped down into the garden and set up her tripod in the shelter of the bean vines, looked in the finder to see if she had focused on the right stretch of alley, then got back to the house without being seen.

The time dragged till the midnight hour. At the last stroke of twelve a slim black-coated figure crept out of the McAllister house and made its way to the grape arbor. Jean was not afraid, but she kept off the flagstones, for she did not want to explain to any one why she had gone out so late at night. Safe between the rows of grapevines, a long breath relieved her lungs. Half-way down she stopped. Perhaps she was foolish to do this alone, perhaps they would not come tonight. She started on the: silent as death, sank down to the ground—a hoot sounded, so close that she might have touched its source. She edged her length under the overhanging leaves of the vines, turned her face down, tucked her hands under the folds of her coat, became one with the earth and the darkness, as stealthy footsteps passed her, brushing the leaves that covered her.

The leaves swished again, and there came the sound of a heel on the flagstone at the end of the walk. "He didn't see me," Jean exulted. "Now he'll walk down to the street and go right on."

In another instant a dull thud was heard as he jumped the picket fence. A hoot followed. Perhaps the feel of the pavement went to his feet. There was a sort of shuffle and instead of humming he sang the words softly:

"One hand in the hopper, the other in the sack,
Ladies step forward, and the gents step back."

"Not tonight, my friend," whispered Jean, getting on her feet. "Just this once we are all going the same way."

Four more steps, three—and now she knelt beside the camera. Crouching low she opened her pocket for her matches. Headlights of a car shone down the street, slower, lights off, and it stood not ten feet away. Were her hands paralyzed with her heart pounding so hard? Could she? Indeed she could!

The very heavens took up the blaze of light that burst from the flashpan and lighted up the alley with the brilliancy of day. White-faced men ran, too, late, but far. Glass crashed, a raw smell filled the air and a car broke the state limit on speed.

Safe behind bolted doors, Jean shivered and shook with great waves of goose-flesh and chattering teeth. "If I had some of their old stuff," she muttered. "It might help to warm me up."

After a hot-water bottle and a woolly blanket had done their work, she reconstructed the scene. "Of course," she exclaimed, every now and then, "that's just who it was, and I had not thought of him."

Two days later, Jean McAllister, Rev. John Mansfield and the two state motor cops walked into the store of George Stayman. Looking up, he saw her advancing with her stalwart background and ran harried fingers through his hair.

"You can fill this lady's order, Stayman," said one of the cops nonchalantly, "and if she wants anything you think you can't supply you can say so right now."

With trembling hand he took the slip of paper and checked the items:

Better lighting of the town, especially the alleys.

Employment of a trained police man, by the support of the council.

Loaf of bread.

Five pounds of sugar.

"Yes," he stammered, "I will see that this is filled immediately." While he was getting the material part ready, Mr. Mansfield hummed easily:

"One hand in the hopper, the other in the sack
Gents step forward and ladies step back."

As they went up the street, with the state cops making a noisy start on their motor cycles, Jean said quietly, but with triumph, "I could have paved this town with silver—if that film had turned out well."

Honoring Naturalist

Transforming of an unsightly hollow surrounding the home of the great naturalist, Audubon, at West One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street and Riverside drive, New York city, the purchase of the residence itself and the creation of the whole into a park adequately honoring the memory of the naturalist, is proposed by the Women's League for the Protection of Riverside Park, according to an announcement of a division chairman, Mrs. Mamie Teasdale Wheless.

The tract, purchase of which is sought, lies in a hollow many feet below the level of Riverside drive, and presents an unattractive appearance. The establishing of the park is recommended in line with the plans of the city for a great extension of the park and playground system, and the beautifying of Riverside drive, Gotham's famous water-front boulevard.

Protection

Not so very long ago two well known film editors took a trip up to the Kern river country. They camped in their car and next day Ed remarked:

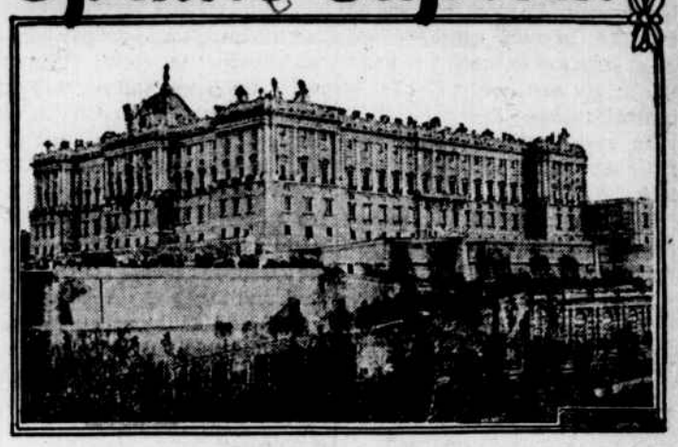
"Pat, how comes it you don't break yourself of snoring? You scared away all the fish within a mile."

"Sure now, I'm sorry about that, Pat declared, "but you see, it's like this: If I break myself of snoring my wife will make me go to church."

Know the Resemblance

Louise had frequently seen her mother, when sewing, taking the basting threads out of garments. One day when corn was served on the cob for dinner, Louise got a silk off the corn in her teeth and said: "Mother, why don't the cook take all the basting threads out of the corn before she gives it to us to eat."

Spain's Capital



The Royal Palace, Madrid.

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

MADRID, the capital of Spain is a thoroughly modern city with very little of the traditional flavor of old Spain and with nearly all the luxuries and conveniences of other European and American capitals. It has a background of fine buildings, wide streets, theaters, educational and scientific institutions, and automobile roads and railways reaching to every part of the kingdom.

Visitors who go by the fast direct trains from Paris to Madrid, and expect to see the colorful costumes and striking architecture one usually associates with the life of the country, are disappointed in Spain's capital city. Madrid's streets swarm with motor trucks and pleasure cars. Underground are subways, connecting the railroad stations and the principal suburbs of the city. The boulevards resemble those of Paris and Berlin, with their bordering trees and imposing hotels, public buildings, shops and monuments.

In place of the poncho and sombrero the visitor will find the tailored suit and the felt or straw hat of a hustling business man of the New York stamp. The latest Paris creations make it difficult to distinguish the Spanish senora and senorita from their Latin sisters in Paris, Rome, Havana and Buenos Aires. The languorous strumming of the guitar and the click of the castanets, if they could be found off the stage in Madrid, would today be drowned by the incessant "whank, whank" of its importunate taxis.

Toledo, Granada and Seville and other Spanish cities, with their narrow, tortuous streets, hemmed in by blank walls of residence facing inclosed gardens, appear as if they were in another world when compared with the modern capital with its wide tree-lined boulevards, and spacious parks and public squares.

Madrid is the youngest of the great cities of Spain. It owes its present importance to political creation. While it was not "made from the whole cloth" as Canberra, the new capital of Australia is being fashioned, in a way it is as truly an artificial capital. Until the middle of the Sixteenth century it was an obscure little village of sun-baked adobe houses, clustering around the former Moorish outpost called Madjrit.

Politics Created the City.

The rather bleak table-land had little to commend it as a site for a capital or a great city save the fact that it is almost the exact geographical center of Spain. But it was political pressure that really pushed the Spanish court to the former Moorish village of Madjrit; because the jealousy of each other felt by the Castilians, the Aragonese, the people of Toledo and Seville, and all the other groups would not permit the selection of an existing city of importance when Spain became united. Philip II, seeking a capital for his newly united Spain, rejected one by one the Aragonese city of Saragossa, the Castilian Burgos, the Visigothic Toledo and the Moorish Cordova and Seville. Madjrit, besides being in almost the exact geographic center of the kingdom, had no sectional ties, so Philip declared it the "Unica Corte," or Royal residence, Castillianizing its name to Madrid.

With hardly any of the natural advantages that contribute to rapid growth, Madrid's early days as a capital were as troublous and uncertain as those of our own national capital. Excepting its central location Madrid was denied by nature almost every suitable condition for a metropolis. It perches on an elevated steppe in the midst of a vast rolling plateau, bleak and treeless, about a half mile above sea level. Two hundred feet below it winds the insignificant river Manzanares, while the surrounding districts are unproductive.

The smallness of Madrid when Philip II made it the Spanish capital brought about the institution of a queer tax from which flowed queer results. It was decreed that all persons possessing houses above a certain size must take in as guests courtiers and nobles who attended the court. The canny Spaniards who carried on any building operations took care to build houses just short of the mark. They were termed "spite houses" by the courtiers, and the Madrid of a few hundred years ago became full of them.

The small houses naturally did not bring beauty to old Madrid. In addition the town was poorly cleaned and even in the middle of the Eighteenth century had the reputation of being one of the dirtiest capitals in Europe. The Bourbons early in the Eighteenth century began to build palaces and public buildings, however, and the French, during the brief hold which they had in Madrid at the height of Napoleon's power, started a number of improvements.

Climate Is Freakish.

Another element to be reckoned with in Madrid is the climate. Sudden changes of weather often bring great extremes of temperature within a short time. In summer the heat is almost unbearable. People keep in the shade (bullfight tickets cost twice as much on the shady side of the ring), for the sun's rays strike the skin like little red-hot needles. The air is then so keen and subtle that, according to a popular couplet, "it will kill a man, while it will not blow out a candle."

Madrid's real prosperity and national importance dates from the construction of Spain's railroad systems. It is now the greatest railroad center in the country, and would probably figure as a greater international crossroad if the Spanish lines had the same gauge as those of the rest of Europe.

Wealth, industries, and population have come in the wake of the railroads. Madrid, with more than 800,000 residents, is the largest city in Spain. Fine parks have been laid out over barren hills, wide tree-lined streets have pushed into the suburbs to take care of additional homes and buildings.

Madrid's "center of everything" is the Puerta del Sol, a large public square in the center of the city. It is a sort of hub for a dozen streets which, like spokes of a wheel, lead in all directions through the city. Here it is that seller meets buyer, beau meets belle, the loafers loaf, the street venders ply their trade and the beggars beg. Mingling with the city folk are stocky basques from the Pyrenees country, ruddy-skinned gypsies from the south and olive-complexioned individuals from other portions of Spain as well as Frenchmen, Englishmen, Italians, and a few representatives of all other European countries.

Royal Palace Is Imposing.

One of the Puerta del Sol spokes leads to the $15,000,000 royal palace, one of the principal show places of the Spanish capital. It is an imposing structure of granite. The spacious yards surrounding it are usually thronged with men and women sauntering on the walks, leaning against the palace wall or sitting on the royal steps. As in the Puerta del Sol the venders and newsboys are heard above the din of chatter, and the ever-present beggar makes life miserable for the stranger. Boys and girls playing games remind one of the south lawn of the White House on Easter Monday when the gates of the President's "back yard" are thrown open for youthful egg rollers.

In the public squares and along the boulevards American automobiles vie with foreign makes and even the Spanish made cars of which the Spaniards are extremely proud. One can hail anything from an ancient flivver to America's largest automobile in which to make a tour of the city.

Less than half a mile to the east is the famous Prado and the "paseos," or promenades, that extend it to the northward and the southward. These great wide spaces and boulevards, with rows of from five to eight trees in their center, form one of the most handsome promenades and "show streets" in the world.

Illustrious Dead in Great Church Edifice

Illustrious American dead continue to find a last resting place in Washington cathedral, commanding Mount Saint Alban's heights, at the National Capital.

For more than 22 years the great edifice has been under construction by the Episcopal church. Today it is only a beautiful fragment—an apse, three chapels and some choir walls. And yet yearly 300,000 visitors and worshipers visit it every year.

Some come only to admire. Others make the journey that they may stand for a time before the last resting place of some of the country's great dead.

For in crypts of the cathedral now repose the bodies of the World war President, Woodrow Wilson, and one of America's foremost admirals, George Dewey. The first bishop consecrated in America, Rt.-Rev. Thomas John Claggett, finds sepulcher there, also the distinguished patriot and ambassador, Henry White.

The interest and curiosity of many has been aroused by the suggestion of making of the structure an American Westminster abbey.

Rt.-Rev. James E. Freeman, bishop of Washington, believes that while the Church of England differs from that in America in that it is a state church, this does not preclude the possibility of making the Washington cathedral all that the abbey is in England.

Shrewdness is almost a substitute for knowledge.