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## WHAT'S GOING ON

### NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

#### Hoover's Choice of Dawes as Ambassador to London Pleases Everybody.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT HOOVER'S selection of Gen. Charles G. Dawes for the high post of ambassador to the court of St. James was a happy one. It meets with the general approval of the people of the United States, if newspaper comment is indicative, and the government and press of England give assurance that Mr. Dawes will be enthusiastically welcomed in London. In accepting the appointment Mr. Dawes made the stipulation that he be given time to conclude his work in Santo Domingo, where he and a commission are establishing a budget system for the government. This job will be ended in four or five weeks. Then he will visit his Chicago home and go to Washington for conferences with President Hoover and Secretary of State Stimson on policies to be followed, so it is likely he will not assume his duties in London before the end of June.

Special gratification over Mr. Dawes' selection was expressed by the British government in reply to the formal inquiry by the State department. It is understood that President Hoover is counting upon Mr. Dawes to bring about a new era of good feeling between the two nations. Friction has arisen recently over a number of matters, including the question of naval construction. Mr. Dawes will be particularly qualified to deal with questions relative to German reparations. The London newspapers say that while England is sorry to part with Ambassador Alanson E. Houghton, who has been quite successful there, no successor could be more welcome than Mr. Dawes.

EVERYTHING was made ready during the week for the special session of congress, and the President let it be known that he especially desired the enactment of a farm relief measure before June 1 so that the relief organization may be functioning in time to help in marketing the next harvest. The administration bill is based on the McNary measure which was endorsed by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde. Tariff revision is likely to cause more trouble in congress than the farm legislation. Urged on by the sugar beet growers and beet sugar producers of the West and the cane sugar men of Louisiana and Texas, the Republicans of the lower house, it is expected, will make a determined fight for substantial increases in the duties on sugar. The battle in both house and senate over this is likely to be prolonged. The proposition to revive the tariff on long staple cotton, which was abolished in 1921, has brought from the General Agricultural Syndicate of Egypt an earnest plea in opposition. The measure, says the syndicate's president, not only would be injurious to Egypt and to the relations between the two countries, but it also "would inflict harm on American spinners of fine cotton, purchasers of fabrics made from it, purchasers of automobile tires and other commodities in which long staple cotton is used. It would make the United States lose the place which her cotton fabrics have obtained abroad where they have succeeded in competing seriously with other countries."

President Hoover received a large delegation of union labor leaders who asked that the views of labor be taken into consideration in the working out of the new tariff schedules. The delegation also urged the appointment of a representative of organized labor on the tariff committee.

SECRETARY OF STATE STIMSON, appealed to by Vice President Curtis to rescind the ruling of his predecessor concerning the official status of Mrs. Gann, the Vice President's sister, and also asked by the diplomatic corps to determine the question, skillfully dodged the issue by telling Mr. Curtis that he would not accept Mr. Kellogg's ruling, and replying to the diplomats

that they would have to solve for themselves the problem of where Mrs. Gann was to be seated at official dinners. So the foreign ambassadors and ministers got together and after discussing the matter for several hours, notified the State department that until some definite ruling was laid down by that department Mrs. Gann would be accorded the rank and social status of the wife of a Vice President at all official and ceremonial diplomatic entertainments. This means that Mr. Curtis has won his fight, at least for the time being, and his sister will rank, at such functions, above all other women except Mrs. Hoover. Both Mr. Hoover and Mr. Stimson were annoyed by the affair into which the State department had been drawn, and the secretary said that his department would no longer act as social secretary for Washington hostesses, though it will aid Mrs. Hoover in arranging her dinner parties. The triumph of Mr. Curtis was first celebrated at a dinner given by the Chilean ambassador at which Mrs. Gann was seated as the ranking woman guest.

HARRY F. SINCLAIR may have to reside for three months in the District of Columbia jail and pay a fine of \$500, for the Supreme Court of the United States upheld his conviction for contempt of the senate in refusing to testify before the Teapot Dome investigating committee five years ago. The decision, read by Justice Pierce Butler, was a complete victory for the government. It sustained at every point the powers claimed by the senate to compel testimony deemed necessary as the basis of possible legislation. The jail in Washington is an old structure with no exercise yard and is a decidedly uncomfortable place in which to live. Sinclair may be sent to the prison farm instead.

LEVIATHAN, which together with ten other ships of the government-owned lines, was bought by the U. S. Lines, Inc., last week started for Southampton on her first trip as a privately owned American vessel, and as she got beyond the twelve-mile limit she became a "wet" ship. Her medical liquor supplies were opened for sale to passengers, though there was no public bar. The same course will be taken on the other ships purchased by Paul W. Chapman's company, a legal opinion that the plan adopted would be no violation of the law having been obtained. Before the Leviathan's departure from New York a federal order was obtained granting the ship the right to enter the port on return with a certain amount of liquor under seal. When the ship reaches the twelve-mile limit on return that amount will be stowed away, and if any liquor remains it will be dumped overboard.

SECTIONS of north central Arkansas were ravaged by a terrific tornado Wednesday night, and about fifty persons were killed and a hundred injured. The village of Gulon was blown completely away, five perishing, while in a farm settlement near Swifton more than a score of men, women and children were killed. Because the districts where the storm struck were rather sparsely settled the property loss was not great. Tornadoes also struck in Minnesota and Wisconsin, resulting in the deaths of about ten persons and considerable damage to property.

DEFEATED at Jiminez, repulsed in their fierce attacks on Naco and forced to evacuate Juarez and Chihuahua City, the Mexican rebels began moving such troops as they could toward the west, apparently intending to concentrate their fight in the state of Sonora. General Escobar, who was elected "provisional president" by the revolutionary leaders, started his army toward the coast, abandoning the entire state of Chihuahua, and himself arrived in Agua Prieta, on the border just east of Naco, by airplane. General Calles with six troop trains arrived at Mazatlan, Sinaloa, and organized his forces for the campaign on the Pacific coast.

Though the federal garrison in Naco had withstood the assaults of the rebels, its situation was becoming increasingly desperate, for Escobar was gathering about 8,000 men to besiege the place and these troops had good artillery and airplanes. To protect

flew 2,500 miles and surveyed six countries. Much of this flying he did himself in a Stearman plane which he took abroad, though he flew also in the passenger planes of the principal European lines.

"Europe has done a wonderful job under trying circumstances in the commercial aviation field," Young said. He was particularly impressed with the Croydon airfield in London and the Tempelhof field in Germany.

the American border, Maj. Gen. William Lassiter, commanding the Eighth Army corps area, ordered approximately 1,500 United States soldiers to Arizona and New Mexico points close to the international line. Eighteen army planes patrolling the border had orders to shoot any Mexican planes flying over American territory.

COL. CHARLES A. LINDBERGH doesn't care to have all his movements followed by a public that becomes alarmed for his safety as soon as he is out of its sight. Last week after a visit with his fiancée, Miss Anne Morrow, he took off from Mexico City for the north. Because he did not show up in Texas when expected, there were rumors of disaster and suggestions of searching parties. But he finally landed at Brownsville, untried except by the public concern, and more than intimidated that where he had spent the night was his own concern. Then he again took off on his way to New York, where the body of his friend, the late Ambassador Herrick, arrived on Saturday from France.

REV. SIDNEY J. CATTS, the picturesque former governor of Florida, is in deep trouble. A federal grand jury in Jacksonville indicted him on the charge of having financed a ring of counterfeiters in Tampa who planned to make vast quantities of bogus \$20 bills and "shove" them through the assistance of a bank employee in New York. Catts is charged with having given the counterfeiters \$5,000 in return for which he was to receive \$25,000 in the fake notes.

HERE'S something novel in the way of speculation "squawks." Congressman L. C. Dyer of St. Louis, Mo., took a flyer in the stock of Hiram Walker, Inc., Canadian whisky distillers, and says he did it in complete ignorance that the company manufactured and sold liquor contraband in the United States. As soon as he learned the truth, he says, he sold, and so eager was he to get rid of the stock that he did not bother about the price, and lost money. Now he has demanded that the governors of the New York curb exchange reimburse him for the loss, contending that the exchange has no right to deal in whisky securities.

SIXTEEN members of the Chicago Association of Candy Jobbers, tried in Federal court in Chicago on charges of violating the Sherman antitrust law, were found guilty and face sentences of one year in jail and \$5,000 fine each. Eighteen others were acquitted. The defendants were charged with conspiring to fix prices in the candy industry and to stifle competition in violation of the law prohibiting the restraint of trade.

CALVIN COOLIDGE, ex-President of the United States, has accepted an invitation to become a member of the board of directors of the New York Life Insurance company and will be elected at the May meeting of the board to succeed the late Myron T. Herrick. In a letter to the president of the company, agreeing to serve, Mr. Coolidge wrote that to him a great life insurance company is the very symbol of thrift, a co-operative society for the advancement of the public welfare, and a character builder.

LOST since March 31 in the wilds of western Australia, the trans-Pacific plane Southern Cross has been found by a searching airman on a mud flat, and its crew of four men were reported to be alive. Food was dropped to them. The crew consisted of Capt. Charles Kingsford-Smith, C. T. O. Ulm, a navigator named Litchfield, and a radio man named McWilliam.

GOV. HUEY P. LONG of Louisiana was impeached by the state house of representatives on one of nineteen charges and the legislators continued consideration of the other charges.

GEN. CHIANG KAI-SHEK, Nationalist President of the Chinese republic, has announced that he will resign as soon as he returns to Nanking. He says he is not big enough for the job and plans a tour abroad for rest and study.

Both, he said, have elaborate administration buildings and provide amply for the air passenger's comfort on the fields and in the planes.

Contrasting European and American airways, Major Young said he believed our planes and pilots were the equal of those abroad, but the foreign lines operate with more refinements, have perfected their organization better, and provide more carefully for the passenger's comfort.

The Romans never invaded Ireland.

### RITA'S WHITE HANDS

(By D. J. Walsh.)

GEORGE watched his wife as she stood facing the group of people. In the intervals between her readings he frequently forgot just how nice she could look. He felt puzzled at the vast difference of Rita in the home and Rita in public. He didn't pretend to listen to the long and exceedingly sentimental selection that his wife was giving; he cared nothing for poetry. He was comparing her modish appearance with the bizarre lady of the breakfast table. Then her rest robe had given him an uneasy sense because of its casual fastenings and the metal wavers in her hair had imparted a weird look to her small head. Her runner slippers had lost the ribbons and were tied with raveled rags of different colors. And George knew that, had he disapproved this frugal habit of using rags, she would have pleaded economy.

At this point in his reflections he sighed, quite forgetting where he was. He was thinking of the cold cream that she lavishly applied at night and which she seemed reluctant to wash off before breakfast. In fact, she often permitted it to remain all morning and the city soot had a way of mingling with the emollient. George didn't especially enjoy Sundays for this reason—he liked a woman to look sweet and neat at table and the belated meal Sunday mornings did not make for appetite. At least, the breakfasts she served were not sufficiently ultra to cause any oblivion to surroundings.

"I wish," he spoke aloud, with vicious emphasis, "that I might never again see an uncooked cereal—" the raised lorgnon of his ample neighbor recalled him to his surroundings and he slumped down into his chair, rosy with embarrassment.

And the slim creature in softest silk with gleaming white hair read on soulfully, waving a white hand to accentuate a passage.

That white hand deepened his sense of injury. The brief admiration caused by Rita's appearance had vanished and his thoughtless speech, aloud, further annoyed him. "Why must she keep her hands so sacred?" he asked himself. "After all, our hands are supposed to be given some employment. Suppose I suddenly shut up my shop because the work spoiled the shape of my fingers?" He grinned. Gloves, worn nights and at other odd moments when she sat plunged in soulful reflections, connected with her readings, had left a trail of marks on the doors; the telephone, especially, was smeared with cold cream.

The reader closed the exquisitely bound limp-leather volume: "To me that interpretation is wonderful. Life is what we make it. A wretched affair of makeshifts and worries or something ideal. Each glorious day should be filled with beauty"—she hesitated with a gentle smile—"or, at least, that is my conception of life. Life should be the interpretation of beauty."

The overdressed guests of Mrs. Randall Tremaine clapped decorously. Mrs. Tremaine was a wealthy woman who demanded constant flattery and adulation. Her friends were composed of a group of climbers who hoped to enter the sacred portals of society by clinging to her scanty but exceedingly expensive skirts. Rita had been presented to her as a striving young person, who constantly reached for the better things of life, and who—this was the part that pleased the prudent Mrs. Tremaine—would give readings absolutely without charge, because she wished to read before the best people.

"Beautifully interpreted," wheezed a very thin old man with a dyed mustache of an unnatural black. "She grasps the fundamentals of the better life."

As George dazedly turned his head to see who had made the comment he heard this tart whisper: "That's the man who lives in the flat above us; he beats his wife every Saturday night."

George wondered savagely why he limited this exercise to Saturday nights, then blushed at his elemental nature.

"You did very well, my dear," Mrs. Tremaine's voice rang out. "Your interpretation of a woman's place in life is charming. Your husband is very much to be envied—" a ponderous hand was playfully wagged in George's direction, who weak-mindedly smirked back—"come and sit with me while I talk to you a bit."

Rita, blushing at the flattery, swam along in the wake of her patroness.

George, convinced that the evening would never end, had stifled these yawns more or less successfully when he was again aroused by Rita's name: "Yes, my dear, she is the wife of a common carpenter. He works in his own shop. Some one said he was here tonight, but I hardly think Mrs. Tremaine would permit that. I'm go-

ing to invite her to read at my evening in Woodlawn. She isn't well enough known to charge anything and a reading is as good as anything else.

George sat digesting his status in the society of climbers. He had built his shop on the side of a large lot which he owned, planning to put up a modest home on the other half. Rita, however, had been so expensive a proposition as to prevent the carrying out of the plan. The shop was far out and so far she had succeeded in coaxing him to rent an apartment nearer the city. It kept her in touch with important people and he could just as well take the car to work, she had explained. He had given in weakly at first, thinking that he could save the money to build, but her clothes had cost a great deal, reading in wealthy houses necessitated many changes and she hated sewing. In fact, their life was given over to her art. "To the interpretation of the beautiful," he told himself grimly as he placed her handsome evening cape over her shoulders as she had shown him how to do.

She was very silent on the way home. Once inside the uncarpeted flat she sat down and began pulling out her hairpins. She had an odd look on her face. "George, Mrs. Tremaine made a suggestion tonight. She said she had done a great deal for me—"

George, getting a drink of water at the sink, turned and stared at this. "I thought it had been the other way around," went on Rita doubtfully, "but she said that she thought it about time I showed a disposition to reciprocate. She wants you to do over the library."

"I haven't applied for any work," interrupted George. "I have more now than I can do."

Rita's white hands twisted together painfully. "Why, she doesn't mean to make an estimate and be paid. She wishes it done as a token of—"

"The beautiful, I dare say, Rita, this is the last straw. I have weakly hesitated because I wanted you to be happy, but as you said yourself tonight, 'Life is what we make it; each day should be filled with beauty.' Now, I propose to run things hereafter. There is no beauty in this dusty untidy house. You are going to throw away your limp volumes of scarlet leather and bilious greens, put away your ridiculous silk dresses and wear good, sensible gingham or whatever women wear to work in. We are going to have real breakfasts and you are going to be neat—"

Rita's eye had begun to flash and now she rose so that her eyes were nearly level. "George, have you been dreaming, or what is it?"

"Just woke up!" he snapped, thankful she hadn't cried; that was what he had dreaded. "No more sickly poetry for you. What has it gained for you except snubs? Who cares anything about you except that you furnish a free entertainment? And now this Tremaine woman tries to fool you into giving her a token"—he stamped his foot as he spoke and there was a prompt knocking on the radiator below; flat dwellers respond instantly to noise. "That's another thing. You haven't helped me any so far, but I'm going to see to it that you stop being a drag. I shall start the cottage at once and the day it's finished we move in. No more paying rent and carfare when I have ground paid for and ready. If you are too proud to live next door to a carpenter shop, why—"

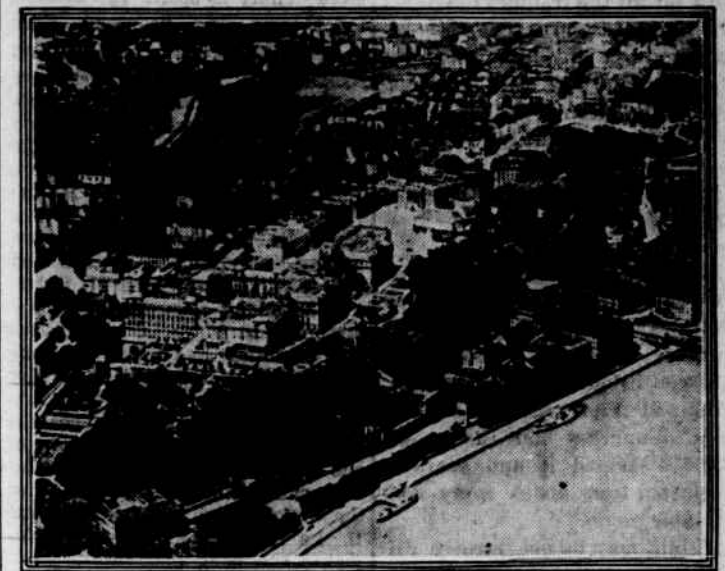
He stopped, longing to give in and eat his words as he saw her astounded face. She was his wife and he loved her, but yet: "Life seems to me an awful middle," he thought dazedly; "Rita could be so fine—in fact, she is," he finished loyally and turned to her. She looked so slight and frail that he could not lay down the law any further.

Rita had been running her hand absently over the dusty windowills. She was very white but there were no signs of tears. "George," she said clearly, "I never noticed before how tall you were, you look splendid. Why didn't you tell me you didn't care for my readings? I liked to be praised and I guess I thought you would care more for me if other people thought me talented, but tonight when Mrs. Tremaine spoke of some return do you know I began to, as you say, 'wake up'? Poetry is all very well, but after all, one's husband—" She seemed to be searching for words as she examined her dusty finger and the man listening experienced a great throbbing of thankfulness. "This flat doesn't look as it should, I think it will be a distinct relief to move and start fresh and have no foolish pretenses."

"Then you won't feel badly—" he knew he was weak, but he wanted to make sure.

All the enthusiasm that she had poured into her readings seemed to have been deflected into this new idea—that of making home life pleasant. Rita wasn't stupid—she just hadn't thought. "I wonder if it's too late to look over those plans you have for the cottage? I think I can promise you a different looking place tomorrow night." Her face told him that she had changed her interpretation of life.

## The Blue Danube



Aerial View of Budapest in the Danube.

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

EUROPE'S "temporary ice age"—the most severe winter that has been known for many decades—gave the role of destroyer to the stream that is normally the Beautiful Blue Danube. The stream was frozen so solidly that ice dams were formed, imprisoning millions of cubic feet of water. When milder weather caused a break in the ice barriers, the resulting flood damaged hundreds of the river boats that had been imprisoned in the ice.

Economically the Danube is to the land-locked nations of Europe what the Mediterranean is to the countries of southern Europe. Once the Northern frontier of the Roman empire; later the path for conquering hordes of Huns, Slavs and Magyars; now the commercial main street of Central Europe, the Danube may claim to be the most important river of Europe, though it is exceeded by the Volga in length.

Human activity attains extremes along the Danube's course even more marked than the contrasts along bizarre Broadway, N. Y. Its waters see the revels and destitution of Vienna and flow by flat rocks on which Hungarian women pound their clothes with wooden mallets and bear them away in tubs on their heads. They pass mills like those of Minneapolis, bear vessels like those on the Hudson, and turn the wheels of boat-borne water wheels to which peasants bring grain in primitive ox carts with even the wheels kept in place by wooden pins.

The river halves Budapest and courses by busy Belgrade where it receives the waters of the Save. It carries barges on which families live as they do on canal boats. Grim castles, great estates, and tiny cottages stand along its banks.

Scientifically the Danube possesses variety almost as infinite. Rising in the Black forest, some of its waters seep through underground fissures to a stream of the Rhine basin. Sometimes it is pressed between high hills. Smaller craft appear on its waters in Bavaria. In Austria it splits into many arms and forms a whirlpool. In Hungary plains it sprawls wide, receiving many important branches, remnant of a prehistoric inland sea. It resumes a wild, torrential aspect again when it pierces the Kazan defile and the iron gates. It receives nearly as many tributaries as there are days in the year, and drains an area almost equivalent to that of Egypt.

Along the steep right bank of the Kazan defile can be traced a road built by Trajan early in the Second century. Not until recently has the construction of a modern road made the defile passable upon either bank.

Recognition of the international importance of the Danube was attested by placing it under a commission in 1856, and further provisions regarding it are contained in subsequent treaties, including that of Versailles in 1919.

#### The Scenic Glories.

The scenic glories of the Danube are chiefly to be seen along the upper reaches of the river; but the broad highway of the lower reaches is economically of more interest, because of the traffic it carries.

Below Gurguevo, Rumania, and Rutschuk, Bulgaria, the Danube widens to about three miles from bank to bank. Gurguevo, a point of great strategic importance, is accessible by river steamers at high water and has an auxiliary port about two miles further down stream.

The lower Danube has a very slight fall, only 120 feet in the last 600 miles of its length, but because of the great volume of water, increased as it goes on by the Alt, the Argeesh, the Jalamiza, the Sereth, and the Pruth, as well as smaller streams, it flows with great force. The Bulgarian banks are

high; the Rumanian shore is low and flat and often overflows. Silistria, the "fortress of the Danube" since Roman times, though of less military importance than Galatz, is the next place of interest below Rutschuk. A Roman relic, "Trajan's Wall," may be seen from the river below Silistria, and forty miles from that city there is a railroad bridge over two and a half miles long and the only one below Belgrade, connecting Bucharest and the Black sea port of Constantza. This is one of the most remarkable examples of its kind of engineering and was built at a cost of \$7,000,000.

Hirsova and Gura-Jamoltza are the next places of importance. The river at Hirsova broadens like a sea with many islands. The town with its fortified castle is prettily situated on a hilltop above the surrounding flats.

#### Important River Port.

The more important of the river's ports are next approached. Braila, unlovely and monotonous of aspect, is, however, the chief Rumanian port of entry, before the war a town of over 50,000 inhabitants and a center of the grain and timber trades. Between Braila and Galatz are the ruins of an ancient bridge said to have been built by Darius the Great.

The latter city, about ten miles below Braila, is a very thriving port. Vessels of 4,000 tons can come up the river to the point. Between Galatz and the confluence with the Pruth the Danube makes its turn to the east. On its left bank lies Bessarabia, formerly Russian territory, but annexed during the World war by Rumania.

After sprawling in a great angle around the barrier of Dobrudja, the so-called blue Danube drops its load of mud and sand gathered from eight nations of Europe in a large delta at the western end of the Black sea. This delta takes the form of a huge, equilateral triangle 50 miles long on each side.

Of all the varieties of earth surface, deltas rank high as the most useless to civilization. Mountains are admired for their inspiration, deserts hold rare beauty for those who seek it, but few people go to a delta even to hunt ducks if they can help it. The Danube's delta is particularly unattractive since the peasants have not been able to adapt it to agriculture, as sugar-cane planters have large parts of the Mississippi delta. Some deltas, such as those of the Amazon and the Yangtze, consist of large islands surrounded by considerable water; but the Danube's waters run through a vast swamp which was almost a complete barrier to navigation before the European commission of the Danube took a hand.

In country that is neither land nor water, the reeds and willows take command and do not catch malaria. Deprived of timber the peasant fishermen put the reeds to many uses. Willows are used for basket making and for fish weirs. A plumed reed is cut for fuel and still another kind is woven into mats or used as thatch. Those who are irritated at fishing restrictions in the United States can appreciate what a fisherman's paradise they live in by comparison. The Rumanian government considers fishing a government monopoly, and every commercial catch must be brought to a government customs house to be auctioned off.

By the construction of levees and piers, the European commission of the Danube has opened a channel to Galatz, the Rumanian naval port, capable of receiving shipping up to 4,000 tons. The traffic in and out the river amounts to more than 5,000,000 tons annually.

#### Appropriate Name.

Theodore Roosevelt gave the name "Switzerland of the Tropics" to Porto Rico because of its high mountainous interior and beautiful scenery.

### American Planes and Pilots Equal of Any

Although European commercial aviation has many refinements lacking on American air lines, the United States has the planes and flyers to develop an air transport system equal to anything abroad, Maj. Clarence M. Young, head of the Commerce department's bureau of aeronautics, said.

Major Young has just returned to this country from a survey of European airways, during which trip he