

WHAT'S GOING ON

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Senate Coalition Deals a Rebuff to President in Farm Legislation.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
DEMOCRATIC and radical Republicans in the senate combined last week to deal a rebuff to the farm relief plans of President Hoover and his administration. The McNary bill was under consideration in the upper house and the elements named succeeded in inserting into that measure the export debenture scheme to which the President had declared his opposition. The senate committee on agriculture already had declared itself in favor of the plan, which the house had rejected when it passed the Haugen bill. The motion of Senator Watson of Indiana to eliminate the debenture provision from the McNary measure was beaten by a vote of 44 to 47.

Consideration of the line-up in this vote leads the unprejudiced observer to the conclusion that the supporters of the debenture plan were not necessarily sincere. Their number included all but two of the Democratic senators (Ransdell of Louisiana and Wagner of New York) and thirteen Republicans, nearly all of whom are classed as radicals. The Democrats had decided to make a party issue of the matter, and the radicals have a habit of opposing the "regular" Republicans. Senator Johnson of California was among those who spoke for the debenture scheme, and he could not refrain from giving Mr. Hoover some slaps.

There was no doubt that the McNary bill would be passed after consideration of some suggested amendments, and it was equally certain that when it went to conference the house conferees would insist on the elimination of the export debenture provision. It was understood in Washington that President Hoover would veto the farm bill rather than permit it to become law with that plan included.

As approved by the senate the debenture provision authorizes the farm board to provide an export bounty on any or all farm products. The bounty would be equal to one-half of the existing tariff rates on the same commodity. Debentures equivalent to these rates would be issued by the Treasury department to exporters who could realize cash by selling them to importers. The debentures would be redeemable in the payment of customs duties on all kinds of imports.

PROMISING even a sharper conflict than the farm legislation, the new tariff bill was introduced in the house with the backing of the Republican majority of the ways and means committee and the united opposition of the Democratic members. The formulators of the measure, seeking to conform with the President's wish to avoid, as far as possible, ill feeling and retaliatory action by Canada and other countries, did not raise the tariff duties on agricultural products nearly as high as the farm organizations had desired; and, according to the Democratic spokesmen, they did increase the duties on many articles which the farmer buys. Republican congressmen of the Central and Far Western states also were dissatisfied with the agricultural features of the bill. Meat duties are about doubled, and this pleases the farm groups, but their request for a tariff on hides was rejected. The rates on sugar are considerably increased, sugar importations from the Philippines being excepted. This brought loud wails from Cuba sugar producers and importers of Cuban sugar and from bottlers of carbonated beverages and other groups, and the farmers, as users of sugar, also objected. The bill is more inclusive than Mr. Hoover desired.

Space is lacking for even a summary of the bill as offered in the house. In its entirety it pleased scarcely anyone, some of its clauses being distasteful to administration congressmen as well as to the Democrats. So it was certain that there would be a

great battle over the measure in both the house and the senate.

Woman Ties Marriage Knot at Gretna Green

One of the latest English elopements, culminating in a wedding ceremony at the blacksmith's forge of historic Gretna Green, involved not the knot-tying smith himself, but his wife.

Richard Rennison, the smith to whom, in accordance with the ancient Gretna Green tradition, young couples apply for matrimonial shackles, was absent from his forge when Olive Eld-

man and Hector Mappin dropped in and blushing asked to be married. So Mrs. Rennison presided at the altar. Strictly speaking, no upset of time-honored marriage regulations was involved, for under the law of the land any resident of Gretna Green can perform the ceremony at the altar. The words of the ritual are simple.

The bride and bridegroom merely affirm that they take each other for man and wife; the blacksmith responds with "Right! Carry on," or words to that effect, and the mar-

riage is duly recorded in the archives. Rennison marries an average of four couples a week at the old mill. Last year 200 loving pairs sought his famous smithy—few, however, because an irate father was pursuing them. In the old days it was Gretna Green's position just across the Scottish boundary that led so many English lads and lassies hither.

Many who fled across the River Sark seeking unimpeded marriage at Gretna Green were children of important families.

HOPE for an agreement on German reparations based on a plan offered by Owen D. Young, one of the American experts, is not abandoned but seems rather slim. The details of the plan have not been made public, but protests are made by England, France and Belgium, each of which fears it would suffer by the proposed revised schedule of payments. None of them is willing to have its receipts from Germany cut down, especially if the United States makes no further concessions in the allied debts due it. The British government was trying to stall off any parliamentary discussion of the matter because of the pending elections, but Chancellor of the Exchequer Churchill told the house of commons that the proposals in question would be unacceptable to the Baldwin cabinet.

CLEAR weather was vouchsafed to most of the scientists who went to the East Indies to observe the total eclipse of the sun, but the British party at Patani, Siam, saw nothing for the phenomenon was entirely obscured by clouds. At Iloilo, Philippine islands, where several American groups were stationed, and on the island of Cebu, where there were others from this country, the weather conditions were excellent. The eclipse was seen for about five hours, though its totality lasted only four minutes. What the astronomers and physicists learned will be made known to the world later.

THOUGH the preparatory disarmament commission in Geneva adjourned until an indefinite date later in the summer without apparently having accomplished anything definite, President Hoover expressed gratification over the "promising character" of the results obtained by the naval powers represented. Said he: "All of the principal naval powers have expressed adherence to the principles suggested by the American delegation, which include the conception of reduction instead of limitation of naval strength. They have expressed their desire for full and frank discussion and the development of the American formula into a practical step. The

man by which these discussions are to be initiated has not yet been determined, but the question will be followed up promptly."

TRAVELING about 900 miles, from Pittsburgh to Prince Edward Island, the navy balloon No. 1, piloted by Lieut. Thomas Settle and Ensign Wilfred Bushnell, won the national elimination race and will represent America in the international contest. The navy bag was in the air about forty-four hours. For a time it was feared that the Detroit Times balloon, with E. J. Hill and Arthur G. Schlosser aboard, was lost. But after hours of travel in rain and mists it came down in a desolate region of the Adirondacks.

THERE were three pieces of news last week of especial interest to the movie fans. First, Constance Talmadge, long one of the most popular of the green stars, became the wife of Townsend Netcher, Chicago millionaire, and announced that she had retired to private life. Then Ina Claire and John Gilbert, both prominent motion picture actors, were married in Las Vegas, Nev.; but there was no intimation that either of them would quit the screen. Thirdly, Tom Mix, hero of scores of "Westerns," was indicted by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles on charges of withholding \$100,000 in income taxes and conspiring to defraud the government out of about \$75,000 in income taxes for the years 1925, 1926 and 1927. The conspiracy charge is also made against E. J. Forde, brother-in-law of Mix, and J. Marjorie Berger, Hollywood income tax counselor.

In announcing Mix's indictment federal officials intimated that similar action would follow against other prominent film performers. It was said that the government's losses from income tax frauds in the film colony have been approximately \$10,000,000 in the last few years.

WASHINGTON social circles are upset again by a revival of the Mrs. Gann controversy brought about by the action of Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth. The speaker's wife declined to conform to the decision of the foreign diplomats giving the Vice President's sister the ranking place, and for the time being those two ladies are not to be seen at the same dinners. Mrs. Gann has plenty of friends and supporters, but the wives of most of the senators and Supreme court justices are in the opposite camp. Of course, when Mrs. Gann stays away from a function, Vice President Curtis also is absent. In December President and Mrs. Hoover will entertain the cabinet members and their wives for the first time, and Mrs. Hoover's method of solving the troublesome problem will be viewed with greatest interest.

BERLIN'S bloody May day riots, that lasted through nearly a week, were finally ended by the vigorous efforts of the government. The Reds threatened a general strike on the day the 24 victims of the demonstration were buried, but the workers failed to heed the plea of the Communists and funeral ceremonies were not marked by further serious disorders. The government in Berlin asserts it has proof that the riots were deliberately staged by agents from Moscow and the minister of the interior read to the reichstag telegrams substantiating the charge. On the other hand the Communist leaders accuse the Nationalists and Monarchists of provoking the battles with the police as a means of forcing the authorities to disband the powerful Red organization. The Communist lighters were dissolved throughout Prussia and Bavaria and in the free city of Hamburg and all their funds were confiscated.

THE University of Porto Rico sustained a severe loss in the sudden death of Dr. Albert B. Hale, professor of economic geography there for the last three years. Doctor Hale in former years was commercial attaché of the state government at Buenos Aires and later was connected with the Pan-American Union. He was an authority on Latin-America.

Col. Max Bauer, chief adviser to General Ludendorff during the World war and afterward the organizer of the Chinese Nationalist armies, died in Shanghai of smallpox.

Then came plans for the wedding and afterwards. "We'll take a short trip," Curtis had said, pressing her dark head against his shoulder. "I'm buying you the home you admired in Lakeview."

"A real home, at last!" breathed Phyllis.

"Just we two," and Curtis' arms tightened. Phyllis tensed suddenly, and a stab of fear pierced her heart. "You forget mother, Curtis," she whispered, brushing her lips lightly across his.

"No, I've thought it all out. She and Tim can keep the apartment, and I'll engage a good reliable woman to come in every day and take charge."

"But," Phyllis remonstrated aghast, "a maid can't take my place with mother. It would take all the joy out of her life if—she didn't live with us! And Tim—" she stopped, her voice thick with tears.

"You'll decide differently after you think it over," he declared. "Trust to my judgment, Phyllis."

But in this one matter she stood firm, and for days the silent battle of wills continued. Phyllis loved Curtis passionately; life without him would be an arid desert. But her mother needed her! The girl moved through the daily routine with a sense of unreality. There were faint smudges under her eyes that told of sleepless nights, but her mechanical set smile never faltered.

A week passed, torturing hours in which self-sufficient Curtis found how wholly and completely love had taken possession of him. It could no more be uprooted than could his very heart be torn from his bosom. And all this anguish was because a delicate old lady and a hardworking boy would be in the way in his new fourteen-room home.

Curtis resolutely got out of bed. He had been a fool, he realized. Snapping on the lights, he wrote a note—tore it up—tried again till one satisfied him. Then he telephoned for a messenger. "He's to be here by seven o'clock," he instructed the sleepy-voiced operator. "The letter I'm sending is of vital importance!" Then Curtis returned to bed, and slept soundly for the first time in a week.

Phyllis, too, was asleep, with tear stains on her cheeks, but peace in her heart. For earlier that night Mrs. Gregory had called her daughter. She was embarrassed and tearful, but determined. What Phyllis finally understood from her mother's rather incoherent words was this: Mrs. Gregory didn't want to live with Phyllis and Curtis! She didn't want to give up the freedom of her tiny apartment. "I hate for us to be separated, but you will have Curtis," Mrs. Gregory sobbed.

"Yes—Curtis," bewildered Phyllis half whispered.

"Besides," Mrs. Gregory was holding her daughter's hands tightly, "I can take better care of Timmy here, and the neighbors can come in during the day and gossip a bit, as they've always done, and I'll feel—well—independent."

"Whatever will make you happiest," Phyllis managed to say.

"And," Mrs. Gregory half laughed, shamefacedly, "Timmy and I both like to keep toothpicks on the table."

TOOTHPICKS AND ROMANCE

(© by D. J. Walsh.)

PHYLLIS, brown-eyed and slender, had ideals, inherited from the romantic, semi-invalid mother who named her Phyllis May. But there was little time for the nurturing of ideals in the Gregory household. Phyllis began work at fourteen, standing on her feet all day behind the counter in a 10-cent store and dragging her weary body to school three nights a week. By the time she was eighteen she had finished night high school and mastered shorthand and typewriting. Now, at nineteen, she had secured her first stenographic position and was beginning to feel that her feet were firmly set at last on the first round of the ladder of success.

From her couch in the front room Mrs. Gregory nominally supervised the household. "Tim, you must wash your hands more carefully. They are positively grimy. And your nails—"

"Aw, for Pete's sake, mother," and the overgrown sixteen-year-old boy would look guiltily at the offending nails, then awkwardly pat his mother's thin shoulder. "What with you and Phil, I don't never get no peace!"

"And you studied grammar at school," Phyllis would exclaim, disgustedly.

"Grammar don't mean anything," he retorted. "It's what you do, not what you say, that counts."

Phyllis had to admit that he was right fundamentally. "But still," she insisted, "being able to talk correctly indicates good breeding."

"Sure, and I'm a well-bred plumber's assistant," he boasted, closing the argument.

Phyllis hated Tim's work. To her it was dirty in every sense of the word. But he had been forced to accept anything he could get. He speedily found something intriguing about bathroom fixtures, and boasted that one day he would be a millionaire plumber and live in a porcelain-lined home.

But with the entry of Curtis Ashe into Phyllis' life minor worries were forgotten. Young and good looking, with that well-groomed air that women so admire, he seemed the materialization of all she had dreamed. Curtis was one of the richest customers of Harvie Bros., where she was employed. He came into the office occasionally to talk with Mr. Harvie, and after a few casual chats with Phyllis came often, invited her to lunch and even suggested dinner and the theater.

Phyllis accepted the luncheon invitations and eventually the theater, but she declined to take dinner with him. "It's my only meal with mother," she explained, "and she looks forward to it."

"I should think your brother could entertain her for once," Curtis grumbled.

"I also prepare the dinner," she laughingly replied.

Curtis had smiled, she thought with annoyed surprise. "I'd like to meet your mother," he said presently.

Phyllis felt herself flushing hotly. "Mother would be delighted to have you take dinner with us one evening," she suggested, diffidently.

Curtis accepted with alacrity, and Phyllis did her best with the dinner. She was not ashamed of the apartment. It was comfortable and tastefully if not expensively furnished. Her mother had a real Irish linen tablecloth, relic of better days, and the old mahogany sideboard. Incongruously massive, gave dignity to the dining room. Tim consented, with some urging, to scrub his nails clean for once.

But good-natured, well-meaning Tim almost spoiled things in the end. The dinner, from roast chicken to homemade ice cream and caramel cake, had been perfect. Curtis had become genial and expansive, Phyllis was very happy. Before they left the table Tim looked around inquiringly, then rose and rummaged through the kitchen cabinet. He came back with what he sought. "Sis forgot to put them on the table."

"No, no thank you," Curtis waved them away with a strained expression. Tim helped himself. "Take one, sis," he invited.

After her guest had gone Phyllis gave way to angry tears. "He'll think we're common and don't know anything," she sobbed.

"If he really cares for you he won't notice a little slip like that," Mrs. Gregory tried to comfort her. Tim, staring at his carefully scrubbed nails, said nothing.

A month passed and Curtis showed unmistakably that a little matter of toothpicks could not come between him and his love. Shy and tremulous, Phyllis crept into her mother's arms to tell the wonderful news. "Curtis loves me. He wants to be married right away."

"You deserve the best," her romantic mother answered, satisfied.

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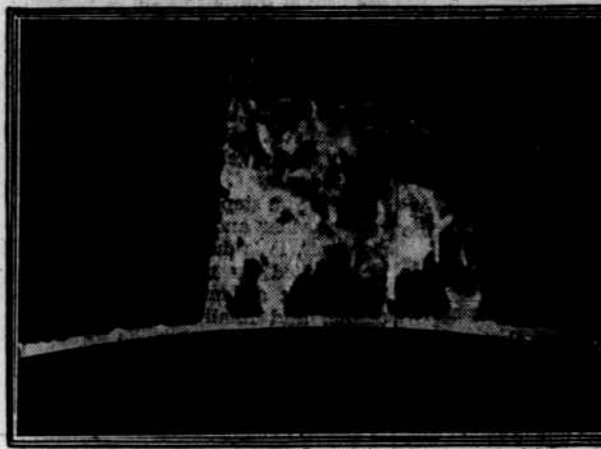
Wonders of the Dusky Land
Carveth Wells, a British traveler and scientist, has seen many wonderful things in the course of his careering through the countries of Africa and other out-of-the-way spots. On his return from the Mountains of the Moon he tells among the other strange things he noted was an elephant with tusks so enormous that they trailed before him along the ground. At least he found his tracks, the marks of four feet and, running always with them, two parallel grooves which could have been made by nothing else than his tusks. On another occasion he saw a herd of gnus and zebras which he estimated to be 30 miles wide and 5 miles deep. He saw them passing below him one morning and, camping at the same spot three days later, he saw them still passing.

Sympathetic Inks
Various methods are used for writing and for bringing out the writing. In the case of so-called invisible or sympathetic inks. Heat and sunlight bring out most of them, but such chemical solutions as hydrogen sulphide, ammonia, oxalic acid, copper nitrate, ferrocyanide of potassium, etc., may be necessary in individual cases, depending, of course, on what was used for the "ink."

First Stamp Primitive
The first postage stamp is said to have been issued in Paris in 1653. It took the form of a receipt printed on the wrappers in which letters were sent, and was originated by a Frenchman named Velayre.

Symbol
"How's the auction business, Dan?"
"The old red flag ain't what it used to be. Every time I hang it out some courade assembles and attempts to speak."

WHY STUDY ECLIPSES?



Flames Shooting Out From Surface of the Sun.

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

ON THE ninth of May the sun and moon staged another of their great periodic dramas in which the Queen of the Night for a few minutes banished the King of the Day and ruled the sky.

No one in America or Europe could see this great show of the heavens, for the moon's shadow swept over only a narrow band extending from the middle of the Indian ocean to beyond the Philippine islands; and the pencil of darkness traced most of its line over water. But it crossed land in northern Sumatra, the southern tip of Siam and the northern Malay states; just touched southern Cambodia, and swept across the middle Philippines. But so important was this brief blotting out of the sun to the scientists of the world that parties of men journeyed to these far off lands in the path of the shadow, taking with them elaborate instruments and cameras. Yet the total eclipse that brought about all this travel and expense lasted only five minutes in Sumatra, and less than four in the Philippines.

It was not the darkness itself that interested the observers, but rather the haze of light that appeared around the circumference of the lightless moon, for that is the chromosphere of the sun and it holds many secrets. Also, they wanted to see the stars that shine immediately past the edge of the blotted-out sun, for their position may shed new light on the Einstein theory.

Meanwhile the man in the street will be wanting to know what is the use of such investigations anyway; and if the astronomer takes time to answer, it will be to say, "I don't know."

Nor could anyone foretell what new truths would be discovered, or foresee what new applications to human welfare they may have.

But new scientific knowledge always has a way of turning men's minds to its application to human necessities.

Today, in peace times, we see the great dirigible, the Los Angeles, flying through our skies without fear of the gas explosion which has wrecked so many superb lighter-than-air craft. And all largely because Lockyer, in 1868, training his spectroscope on the great flames that shoot out from the rim of the sun, detected a new line in their spectrum. He noticed its close resemblance to the lines of hydrogen and concluded it must be the spectroscopic signature of a light gas unknown to terrestrial chemists.

How Helium Was Found.

Twenty-eight years passed, with everybody thinking that this gas was a stranger to the earth. Then Sir William Ramsay obtained minute quantities of a new gas from uraninite. Imprisoned in a test tube and electrically excited, it began to glow. Studied with the spectroscope, it showed the same telltale autograph that Lockyer had observed.

More years passed. The World war was on, and America had entered it. The housewives of the plains of Kansas had been complaining of the quality of their natural gas. It didn't make enough heat or sufficient light. A middle-western university professor, H. P. Cady, was sent down to find out the trouble. In his spectroscope appeared once more the unmistakable signature that had come to Lockyer, Ramsay, and to Sir Ernest Rutherford in his manifold investigations of radio activity. It told him why that gas wouldn't produce sufficient heat and light—it contained helium, as inert as stone and playing the same role in natural gas that slate plays in coal.

Then the American Chemical society met. The university professor was put on the program to tell of his discovery. He apologized for intruding a theme upon the attention of that great body which could not, by the longest stretch of his imagination, have any bearing on the momentous issue before which all other matters should stand silent. But after he spoke, a venerable British savant declared that he need offer no apology; that if the war went on another two years the professor's contribution would do more to promote victory than all the other contributions to the proceedings.

Thus came helium as the straw that would break the Hohenzollern back, if all other weights should fall. It made possible the construction of giant dirigibles which could conduct raids over the enemy lines without fear of inflammable bullets.

And it was the training of a spectroscopist on a huge flame on the rim of the sun during an eclipse that had first revealed this element.

Thrills in Astronomy.
Romance? Astronomy offers more thrills to the alert human mind than all the fiction in the Library of Congress could provide!

Recently millions of people listened in on the election speeches and returns, and marveled once more at the wonders of radio. But they little dreamed that a patient Danish astronomer had done the pioneer work which released Bell's telephone from the bondage of wires and made the ether of space its servant.

When Roemer found that eclipses of the moons of Jupiter occurred 16 minutes earlier when Jupiter and the earth were on the same side of the sun than when on opposite sides, he deduced that light was not instantaneous, but traveled at about 186,000 miles a second.

Clerk Maxwell concluded that light, to travel at such a velocity, must be electro-magnetic, and that there must be other wave lengths than those which register on the human eye.

Hertz detected these hypothetical waves, Marconi harnessed them to signaling, and Pupin made them the burden bearers of sound. Vacuum tubes can now take the infinitesimal bit of energy these waves possess after spanning a continent—a bit of energy no greater than a tiny fraction of that expended by a fly in crawling up a window pane—and, "stepping them up" and amplifying them, make them capable of producing a room-filling sound.

Here is an inkling of a solution of the problem of power sources after coal and oil supplies are gone. Studying Sirius, the gay Dog Star, and his less brilliant companion, astronomers have found indications that this satellite of the Dog Star has nearly as much mass as the sun, although it is only a little larger than the earth.

If that be true, then there are states of matter of which man never dreamed before. On that basis this dark star would be 50,000 times as heavy as the same bulk of water. In other words, a pint of the material composing that star would weigh 25 tons.

The world is looking for a good conductor of electricity that will enable industry to transmit power long distances without undue loss of energy. It is possible that this new understanding of the constitution of matter might lead to the open door of a new and better conductor to take the place of the diminishing supply of copper in the transmission of electrical power. Should such a conductor be found, then the melting snows of the Rockies and the Andes, of the Alps and the Himalayas, might turn the wheels of the world's industries, light the lamps of its homes, and produce all the fires of its kitchen ranges and sitting-room fireplaces.

The astronomer and the physicist have pooled their forces in cross-examining the atom. In the test tubes of the laboratory and the cosmic crucibles of the skies, they are attacking it with X-rays, spectroscopes, and other instruments of atomic torture, to make it surrender the secret it has withheld from humanity for so long.