

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President's Law Enforcement Commission Begins Its Great Investigation.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
PRESIDENT HOOVER'S commission on law enforcement has been appointed and is about to begin its momentous task of investigating the evils and failures of federal judicial procedure.

RAILROADS of the country won a great victory when the Supreme court of the United States handed down its decision in the famous St. Louis & O'Fallon railroad case which on behalf of that obscure little coal road had been fought through all the courts.

Reversing a lower court decision and annulling the order, the Supreme court decided that the interstate commerce commission must revise its whole method of valuing railroads to reach a basis for rate making.

At first it was believed this decision would bring about higher passenger and freight rates, but later this was denied.

Use of Hollow Wires Ends Voltage Leakage

Leakage, long the bugbear of long-distance transmission of high voltage electricity, is being stopped with the use of hollow wires.

ting. Prices of rail stock soared with a rush of buying orders, but the advances were cut in half by liquidation in industrial stocks.

FORMER SENATOR IRVINE L. LENROOT'S appointment to a federal judgeship was finally confirmed by the senate despite the determined opposition of a number of radicals.

FOLLOWING Colonel Lindbergh's flight in his amphibian plane to North Haven, Maine, carrying his fiancée, Anne Morrow; her mother and two sisters, the news developed that the youngest of the girls, Constance, had received extortion letters threatening her life if \$50,000 were not paid to the writer.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND and part of the financial district of New York were theoretically devastated by bombs dropped by the army's huge Keystone bomber which made a non-stop flight of 600 miles from the headquarters of the army air maneuvers at Fairfield, Ohio.

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX clergymen, educators and leaders of religious thought in Great Britain and America have issued what is entitled "A British-American Message to the Churches and to All People of Good Will."

WHILE the senate and house conferees continued in deadlock over the export debenture scheme in the senate's farm relief measure, the Republican members of the house tried to fix up their tariff bill so it would be assured of passage.

In the matter of the farm relief measure, the house conferees were insistent that there be no vote in the house on the debenture plan, while the senators argued earnestly that such a vote would make easier their

a broad, flat strip of metal. The more the surface is reduced, the greater the loss. A line reduced to a needle point would cause heavy leakage.

task in persuading the senate to accept the bill with that feature omitted.

RECENT disclosures of the activities of the International Paper and Power company in financing newspapers, made during the investigation by the federal trade commission, inspired Senator George Norris of Nebraska to deliver in the senate a long address in which he urged legislation to prevent the acquisition of newspapers by public utilities concerns and to curb the expansion of such corporations.

Mr. Norris said he believed every newspaper in the country has had the opportunity to sell out to the "power trust," the existence of which he has been declaring for years, and passionately pleaded with publishers to reject the offers of the power magnates so that the country might have a free press.

CHILE and Peru are immensely relieved by the settlement of the old Tacna-Arica dispute, which was formally announced in Washington. The agreement reached was that proposed by President Hoover.

Bolivia, which had hoped for an outlet to the sea through the port of Arica, alone is dissatisfied with the settlement.

POOR old China seems to be on the verge of another great civil war. Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, head of the Nationalist government, and Gen. Feng Yu-shiang, the "Christian general," have reached the parting of the ways and at last reports were about ready for armed operations against each other.

DR. ALBERT VOEGLER, secretary of the German Federation of Industries, has resigned from the German committee of the conference of reparations experts and departed from Paris, which led to fears that the conference would be a complete failure.

FOREIGN ministers of the little entente held a conference in Belgrade in which, according to official announcement, a complete accord was reached on all questions.

DEATHS of the week included those of Earl Rosebery, veteran statesman and former prime minister of Great Britain; Eliza Hensler, ninety-three, the American-born morganatic wife of Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg, king consort of Portugal half a century ago; and Rebecca Ewing Watterson, widow of Henry Watterson, the famous Kentucky journalist.

THE society of the League of Nations at The Hague has awarded Grotius medals to Frank B. Kellogg, former secretary of state, and Sir Eric Drummond. The Grotius medal was instituted in 1925, to be granted each year thereafter to ten persons for work done in the promotion of peace.

Hollow wires then were struck upon as eliminating both the weight and the cost of solid metal. In practice, strands of solid wire are wound around a central metal core to weave a tube. High voltage was found to be transmitted without loss.

OUT OF THE CURRENT

(By D. J. Walsh.)

DREAMILY Anetha arose from among the gay striped pillows of the swing, with her finger between two pages of the "Story of Philosophy," sauntered down among the peonies to the mall box in which she had a few minutes before uninterestedly seen the rural carrier deposit her day's mail.

"Anetha, dear, Mark has some things to talk over with you—business connected with your estate. He is just recovering from rather a nasty bout with flu, and he wondered if you might not be prevailed on to come here and save him a trip to Green Center.

"The cream of the matter is in the postscript, of course," murmured Anetha. "Translated it would be, 'For goodness' sake have some decent clothes and don't disgrace me.'"

She got up, picked up the pillows against which she had leaned, tucked the "Story of Philosophy" under her arm with letters and newspapers, and went into the still, sun-bathed house.

Competently banishing sternly from her rebellious mind the glories of May, she was enforcedly ignoring, she went through the next three days supervising Miss Bertha, getting house and garden ready to leave for a week.

"You'll have a perfectly grand time!" fervently assured Miss Bertha. Anetha shivered. She was trying on a dinner gown of soft black lace and at the shiver Miss Bertha waxed indignant.

"But—but—I'm too old at forty-three, to adapt myself. You know, Miss Bertha, Mark and Clarice are college graduates; their friends are college graduates. They are educated, cultured people. I didn't go to the university that fall I planned to.

There were business conferences with Mark at first and then Clarice gave a dinner party in honor of "Miss Sinclair of Green Center." They went

to luncheons, teas. Anetha at these felt as if she were reading a novel. And she confessed to Mark, "I've always been so out of life I am afraid to open my mouth."

"Do let me stay at home with Mark," pleaded Anetha. "Oh, Anetha!" Clarice was tragic. And so Anetha faced the lions.

"That's just the way it is with me," one said, then another. Clarice came to the rescue of the discussion. "Anetha," she said, "I saw you reading one of this man's books last night. Tell us about it."

"I wish you had heard her!" bubbled Clarice to Mark at dinner that great day. "I'm not surprised," Mark said. "I sometimes think it's we, being swept along in the middle of the current that are out of things."

"Did have a grand time, didn't ye?" Miss Bertha triumphed. "Educated! You want to be, an' you got it" time, so you are! Green Center ain't so bad!"

A certain restaurant famous for its excellent cooking and bad service was patronized by a middle-aged man and his little son. They sat down at a table and picked up the menu.

"Daddy," he said, clutching his father's sleeve, "why don't you kick up a row like you would at home?"—Weekly Scotsman.

"Is Mrs. Rise at home?" inquired Mrs. Chatters, standing in the shadow of the doorway. "I don't know, ma'am," the new maid replied. "I can't tell till I get a better look at you. If you've got a wart on the side of your nose, she's out."

The mob has neither judgment nor principle—ready to brawl at night for the reverse of what is desired in the morning.—Tacelus.

Crowded Szechwan



Passenger-Carrying Wheelbarrows in Szechwan.

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

Few nations have a greater problem in feeding and clothing their citizens than a single province in China, Szechwan, where approximately 60,000,000 people live isolated behind great mountain barriers.

There is a most intensive, if primitive, domestic commerce in Szechwan, and millions of the laborers of the province spend their lives on its roads, bearing burdens on their backs or pushing the wheelbarrows which supply the only wheels that ever touch the network of roads and trails.

Sharing with these carriers the burden of the nation's life is the proverbial "Man with the Hoe," usually a poor tenant giving half his crop for the rent of his acre.

To these farmers is given the task of feeding a nation of 90,000,000 people; for Szechwan, isolated by mountain barriers, must be self-sustaining. The measure of this task is appreciated when we consider that fully 50 per cent of the 131,000 square miles of Szechwan is too mountainous for cultivation.

He is, however, favored with a temperate climate all the year and a naturally rich soil, an atmosphere saturated with moisture, an abundant rainfall, and a never-failing supply of water for irrigation from the melting snows on the mountain near by.

He produces nearly every vegetable and grain found in our market and others to which we are strangers. The fruits that are ours are his also. Apples are few and poor in quality, but the persimmon and orange are second to none and are produced in great abundance.

When rain and gods fall him, he sets to work with endless-chain, foot-treadle pump, laboriously lifting into his terraced fields the water that he has conserved in the valley. Then, breaking up the rice sod, which has

been grown from early sowing in highly fertilized plots, he transplants it in hills in the watered paddy fields. The rocky water makes the hoeing of his rice field impossible; so he does not hoe it; he toes it. With bare foot he feels about the plant with his toes, and if he finds a weed, he toes it out; then presses the dirt firmly in place again.

For the harvest the farmers combine and render mutual assistance. The rice is cut with the sickle, gathered in bundles, and the grain beaten out by striking it upon staves in the center of a large bin which is pulled along after the threshers. Dried upon bamboo mats, rolled and cleaned, it is then ready to be transported to market.

About midway between Chungking and Chengtu the traveler in Szechwan is tempted by the long train of salt carriers to turn aside and see the renowned salt industry at Tschu-ching, which means "Flowing Well." Its origin is lost in antiquity, being first mentioned in the reign of the Minor Han dynasty in Szechwan, A. D. 221-263.

With its forest of derricks, it resembles an oil boom town. The wells have been drilled by foot power to a depth of 2,400 feet for brine, and about 2,500 for natural gas, which is used exclusively for the evaporation of the brine.

There are no flowing wells now, the brine being lifted in bamboo buckets about 30 feet in length, and 4 to 5 inches in diameter. The power is supplied by water buffaloes, hitched in fairs to a 60-foot horizontal drum, about which the rope fastened to the bucket winds as the animals are hauled around the circle at a wild gallop.

Returning once more to the Big road and passing without comment its towns and cities, located about ten miles apart, one comes to Chengtu, the Perfect capital, a vice-regal city of half a million people, ruling over Szechwan and Tibet. It is surrounded by a finely constructed brick wall, 35 to 40 feet in height, with a thickness at the top of 20 feet and a circumference of more than nine miles.

Chengtu is an ancient capital, its first recorded wall being built 2,315 years ago. Marco Polo described it as a trinity of cities beautifully embellished. Its approaches were carved marble bridges which spanned its most its wall, nearly 20 miles in circumference, enclosing a population of more than a million, was surrounded by rows of hibiscus trees, which in autumn bloom made it the "Embroidered City," a name that has long outlived the wall and its trees.