

## DOINGS OF THE WEEK

### NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

#### Ramsay MacDonald Coming to Washington for World Peace Conference.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

**R**AMSAY MACDONALD, new prime minister of Great Britain, is planning to come to the United States to confer with President Hoover, in regard to naval armament reduction and enforcing the Kellogg pact outlawing war by joint action of the English speaking peoples. In Washington the news of this plan was well received, and it was learned at the White House that Mr. Hoover would be glad to meet Mr. MacDonald and discuss with him questions of mutual interest to their two countries. American Ambassador Dawes, on his way to England, was apprised of this development by radio and almost immediately after his arrival in London he went to Scotland for a conference with the prime minister who was taking a ten days' vacation at his home in Lossiemouth. Mr. Dawes was expected to deliver to Mr. MacDonald an invitation to visit Washington and hold there a conference with President Hoover and Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada. The best guess in London was that the trip would be made about the end of July after the session of parliament adjourns.

According to London correspondents, Mr. MacDonald said: "If President Hoover invites me to Washington I am going to answer 'I will go.' I shall hope to settle this question of Anglo-American relations once and for all." It was asserted he hopes to carry the discussion much further than naval subjects. He believes the world is entering on an era of great industrial and financial combines whose boundaries will cut across all national frontiers, and he is desirous of a discussion on economic co-operation and avoidance of cut-throat competition in foreign markets. Mr. MacDonald, as a Socialist, welcomes the welding of industry into trusts and sees no objection to the spread of trusts in the international field under proper governmental control.

**J**UST when it appeared that the farm relief bill as doctored up by the house and senate conferees and approved by the President had clear sailing, the senate messed things all up by rejecting the conference report by a vote of 43 to 46 because the export debenture feature had been eliminated. In this step the Democrats were joined by 13 Republicans, all listed as radicals except Couzens of Michigan. The debenture advocates not only stood by their scheme, but they were especially determined to force the house to go on record on this feature of the measure.

President Hoover immediately called leaders of the house and senate to the White House and a program was agreed upon. This was to send the bill back to conference as the senate asked, and to have the conferees agree on their original report, after which it was expected the house would reject the debenture plan by a comfortable margin and accept the conference report. There appeared to be no doubt that the senate also would adopt the report of the conference after the house had rejected the debenture by a vote of 250 to 113.

The most interesting feature of the affair was the outspoken threat of Senator Brookhart of Iowa that a third or "progressive" party would enter into the congressional campaign next year and the Presidential campaign of 1932 if the debenture were not included in either the farm bill or the new tariff bill. He asserted the President rather than the senate was to blame for delays in obtaining farm legislation.

Tariff hearings were begun by the senate finance committee, and Senator Wesley Jones told the senate this work should be speeded up with a view to completing the enactment of the legislation early in the fall, and therefore congress should recess for only

a brief time. But Senator Watson, majority leader, expressed the belief that the tariff bill could not be finally acted upon until just before the regular December session.

**S**IGNATURE of the Young plan for German reparations payments by the seven interested nations is having speedy result in the way of settling other post-war problems. The council of the League of Nations met in Madrid, and the Germans carried out their plan of bringing before it the matter of early evacuation of the Rhineland. Aristide Briand, French foreign minister, proposed that an international conference be held this summer for the handling of all outstanding questions left over from the war, and this was agreed to by Dr. Gustav Stresemann, German minister of foreign affairs. Prime Minister MacDonald of Great Britain already had intimated that he was willing to participate in such a meeting. It was generally believed that the conference would be held in July, probably in London or The Hague.

It had been supposed that the council at this Madrid session would take up the vexatious question of national minorities, but Stresemann insisted it should be referred to the World Court at The Hague. This was strongly opposed by Briand and the representatives of the secession states, and a compromise was reached by which the matter was held over for the September session of the League assembly.

French Socialists in convention at Nancy declared in favor of the Young reparations plan, evacuation of the Rhineland and immediate ratification of the Mellon-Beranger accord for the payment of the French debt to the United States. Certain of the United States senators led by Howell of Nebraska have attacked the Young plan as "another move by the allies and the international bankers" to cancel not only the war debts but also the interest on the allied obligations to America. Administration leaders and State department officials asserted nothing in the Young settlement would affect the war debts owed the United States. J. P. Morgan, one of the American experts, declared on arrival in New York that the bank for international settlements, to be established under the Young plan, would be the greatest instrument for the preservation of world peace yet devised.

**P**RESIDENT HOOVER, because he used to be secretary of commerce, was especially interested in the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the magnificent new Department of Commerce building. Surrounded by many other high government officials, he wielded the trowel that was used by President Washington in laying the cornerstone of the Capitol 136 years ago, and in his address he said the event marked the emergence of the Commerce department into full maturity and service. The building will be the largest single public structure in Washington and in its actual floor space will be the largest office building in the world. It is to be the most important structure in the government's \$115,000,000 program for public buildings in the city of Washington.

**N**EARLY every day the quick shooting enforcers of prohibition furnish more ammunition for the foes of Volsteadism. Last week they killed an apparently innocent citizen at International Falls, Minn., and a young man at Detroit whose companions admit he, and they had been trying to run a boatload of liquor from Canada. Drys in congress took the opportunity to denounce the activities of prohibition officers and Representative Clancy of Michigan demanded an investigation of the Detroit case, but after a trip to that city he said the shooting was justified. Representative Florence Kahn of California introduced a bill in the house directing the treasury to pay \$25,000 to the dependents of every person "wantonly or negligently killed by any prohibition officer not acting in self defense." Other congressmen urged that the treasury forbid the use of firearms by dry agents, but Seymour Lowman, assistant secretary of the treasury in charge of all prohibition enforcement agencies, said this could not be done. He declared that agents

had been cautioned for more than a year against reckless use of firearms, and that he did not see what more could be done to prevent killings without crippling enforcement.

**T**wo officers of Hopkinsville, Ky., who were convicted for killing a man in a prohibition raid were denied a new trial by Federal Judge Dawson in Louisville. In Silver City, N. M., a dry agent induced a bootlegger to sell him liquor and the latter was shot by other agents as he was making the delivery. Angered by the dry raid at Ripon, Wis., during the celebration of the Republican party's seventy-fifth birthday, Assemblyman Lamoreaux of Ashland county introduced a resolution asking the federal government to desist from attempting to enforce the Eighteenth amendment in the Badger state. About the same time dry agents raided the favorite drug store of Wisconsin's wet legislators in Madison.

Mr. Lowman has ordered heavy reinforcements for the dry enforcers of the Detroit area, in the way of both men and boats. In response to this the big run runners of the Great Lakes met in Ecorse and laid plans to operate in unison. They adopted a shuttle system whereby traffic will be diverted to Lake Erie or Lake Huron when the enforcers are concentrated on the Detroit river, and they also have devised an elaborate intelligence system and began buying larger and better boats.

These are just a few of the wet and dry developments that take up vast space in the columns of the metropolitan dailies.

**U**NLESS all indications are wrong, peace between Mexico's government and the Roman Catholic church will be declared in the near future. Archbishop Ruiz of Michoacan and Bishop Pascual Diaz of Tabasco held conferences with President Portes Gil in Chapultepec castle as the climax of long negotiations, and there was good reason to believe they arrived at an understanding which would need only the approval of the Pope. In well informed quarters in Mexico City it was asserted the basis of the agreement was mutual consent for a broad interpretation of the country's religious laws, both sides making concessions.

**T**HREE United States district judges sitting en banc in Chicago found the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and fifty-one associated concerns guilty of violating the Sherman antitrust act by pooling their so-called "oil cracking" processes. The decision which granted the government a permanent injunction restraining the defendant companies from further violations of the law, came after more than four years' litigation. In the original suit, filed in 1925, the government claimed the defendants conspired to restrain trade and create a monopoly by refusing independent concerns the right to use their Burton "cracking" process, used to extract gasoline from crude oil. In defense the Standard of Indiana held that the process had been of vast benefit to consumers and had materially lowered the price of gasoline.

**T**HREE Swedish aviators started to fly from Stockholm to New York but a broken gas feed pipe forced them to land on the coast of Iceland. They got their plane to Reykjavik and last week made three attempts to fly from there to Greenland but were driven back each time by rough weather. The aviators Ahrenburg, Floden and Ljunglund are trying to establish a new air trade route between Europe and America.

**G**ALVESTON'S international "pageant of pulchritude" came to an end with the awarding of the title "Miss Universe" to Fraulein Lisl. Gold arbeiter of Vienna, Austria, the young governess being adjudged the most beautiful of all the contestants. Miss Irene Ahlberg of New York was named "Miss United States." The affair did not come off without a small scandal, for Theda Delrey, "Miss Tulsa," who was selected for ninth prize was accused of being really the "Miss Houston" of two years ago and therefore ineligible as a former contestant.

**I**ndia. Pietro Martire d'Angliera, Italian humanist at the court of Castile long a doubter of Columbus' claims, was convinced by the parrots. "These parrots brought from there," he wrote, "show that either by proximity or nature the islands are a part of India. They nourish popinjays, of which some are green, some yellow and some like those of India with yellow rings about their necks as Piny describes them." Records show no Cuban macaws have been seen for half a century.

### THE OLD JAPANESE CABINET

(By D. J. Walsh.)

**S**ALLIE stood at the end of the long winding drive uncertainly. After all, why should she go up there to that house on the side of the hill? She was not on calling terms with Mrs. Frazier. Indeed, the only time she had ever been within the house was the day that there had been a parent-teachers' meeting there. And as for Mrs. Frazier's son, Rod Frazier—well, Sallie's cheeks burned even now as she thought of him! Horrible boor! True, he didn't look like a boor, nor yet did he act like one to anyone else. But with her—Sallie shrugged and walked on two or three steps.

After reaching the end of the grounds, though, she turned back resolutely. After all, pettiness or being "little" about things was something that Sallie despised, and what difference did it make how polite or otherwise Rod Frazier might be!

But as she climbed the steep path to the hillside house she could not help remembering the way he had acted about the party. All the teachers had been asked to attend the party.

"Rod, you can take Sallie Piper," Marjorie Gray had said when they had been planning who should go with whom. "That'll fix us all up fine!"

And Sallie had waited for Rod to speak to her about going with him, had waited one day, two days, three days—a week! As the time for the party came near she wondered whether or not he had meant Marjorie Gray's words to stand as an invitation. That might be the strange custom out in this little town where she had come to teach the kindergarten! If it were the custom, Sallie thought wryly, it was not to her liking at all!

But when the evening of the party arrived Sallie had heard nothing from Rod. It was well along after eight o'clock that he rang the bell where she boarded and brought with him a beautiful five-pound box of candy, tied with gay red ribbons and sealed with gold seals. Nonchalantly he had sat down and they had talked of everything, it seemed to Sallie, under the sun moon—except the party. And to that he made no reference.

And because she had not gone to the party, none of the other teachers in the school talked of it to her, although she saw much less of those other teachers than they saw of one another, and this was because her little youngsters were dismissed at eleven o'clock instead of twelve and at the hour of three instead of four. Time had passed since this party, but Sallie's face yet flamed when she thought about it!

"I saw the notice, Mrs. Frazier," she said, when she sat with Rod's mother in the long living room, "about the selling of your household furniture. You're not going to part with that Japanese cabinet, are you?"

Mrs. Frazier nodded without speaking for a moment. Then she replied: "Everything is to be sold, my dear. The house has already been sold and we are moving to the city!"

"Oh!" said Sallie. "I'm sorry!"

"And I, too," said Mrs. Frazier, with a smile that seemed infinitely sad to Sallie. "The truth is, my dear," she said with a little rush of words that seemed to surprise even herself, "some investments have turned out miserably and Rod can earn a great deal more in the city, and so—we're going there, you see. Were you interested in buying that Japanese cabinet?" she asked merrily.

"Ah, no!" said Sallie. "There is nothing I should love to have more than that. My uncle, you know, was the head of the anthropology department at the university and he went to Japan every year. Twice he took me with him when I was in my teens and I wondered—it is probably presumptuous of me to question your knowledge on things Japanese—if you realized the great value of that cabinet?"

Mrs. Frazier shrugged: "I know little about anything in the house, Sallie. The house belonged to my grandfather and when it came down to my mother and then to me, everything was just as it is now. It's a pretty enough cabinet, but—" with a frank laugh, "I hate dusting all that carving! Old Mr. Jenkins has made an offer of \$15, but the auctioneer asked me to leave everything as it stood until the day of the auction and so I shall do that. If you want the cabinet, though—"

"Fifteen dollars!" echoed Sallie. "I'll be glad to put in any bid you wanted to make if it is auctioned off in school hours," continued Mrs. Frazier.

"But it is worth well up into the thousands," said Sallie, aghast. "If you want me to have Uncle Tom's friend come out to appraise it he could come and perhaps could get a

buyer for it who will pay something approximating its worth."

"Thousands!" repeated Mrs. Frazier. "Why grandfather was very well off financially, but I had no idea he would pay anything like that—"

And in the end they telephoned long distance to the friend of her uncle and he promised to come out on the evening train.

"Rod has gone into the city to see about a position with one of the banks there. The position he has here pays so very little"—Mrs. Frazier broke off with a little sigh—"and now I shan't have to eat my dinner alone, for, of course, you'll stay with me until your uncle's friend comes."

And when Exeter Mills arrived it took him but little time to seek out the Japanese cabinet. Adjusting his glasses he examined it silently, while Mrs. Frazier and Sallie looked on anxiously. When Rod came in quietly with downcast face Mrs. Frazier put her fingers to her lips. "Come out on the night train," Rod explained, and then was silent.

Of a sudden the white-haired man bending over the Japanese cabinet made a little sound, an inward hissing of breath. Standing well forward on the balls of his feet, he pressed the thumbs of his hands on two of the protruding bits of carving which Mrs. Frazier had so resented having to dust. Because it had not opened for so many years the piece of wood moved but slowly. Finally, though, there was revealed to their amazed eyes a bit of Japanese brush work that even to an amateur was the exquisite work of an artist.

"Kanaoka—a Japanese artist who lived in the Ninth century—ah!" murmured Exeter Mills swaying from left to right to get the full value of the picture. "You are willing to part with this, from what Sallie told me over the telephone?" he said to Mrs. Frazier.

Mrs. Frazier nodded.

"I am chairman of the purchasing committee for the museum," said Exeter Mills, not taking his eyes from the picture that the Japanese cabinet had so surprisingly revealed to them. "I can't make a definite offer tonight—I must talk with the committee, of course, but will you place a price on this, if you please?" he said, drawing his eyes with great effort from the picture to look directly at Mrs. Frazier.

"She doesn't know the value of it, Mr. Mills," cut in Sallie. "If you will appraise it—that would be best, Mrs. Frazier?"

Mrs. Frazier nodded.

"If \$15,000 will be satisfactory," began Mr. Mills.

"And I very nearly took \$15!" said Mrs. Frazier, both laughing and crying at once. "Why, we needn't leave at all, Rod! We can stay here—oh, Sallie knows of our financial difficulties. I told her this afternoon!"

"Ah, you did!" said Rod slowly.

And while Mr. Mills and Mrs. Frazier talked of the Chinese cabinet Sallie was listening to Rod: "I knew you'd wonder about that party," he hurried to explain. "You see, the moths got into my only decent suit and the party is so formal—I-I couldn't go!" he ended with a laugh. "And I couldn't ask you to go!"

And Sallie was suddenly glad that she had not let a misunderstanding deter her from speaking of the value of the Japanese cabinet.

"And you'll go with me next time?" said Rod.

"Your house is already sold!" countered Sallie.

"The man will be glad to sell it to us again. He bought it to rent, not to live in. Oh, we'll be here all right," said Rod.

"Well, if I'm here," Sallie said slowly.

"Oh, you'll be here all right!" returned Rod.

Someway or other Sallie knew that she would be, too!

#### Leasing Periods

It is believed by most authorities that the custom of making ground leases for ninety-nine years started after the passage of an old English law providing that leases for 100 years or more were to be regarded by courts as a sale. The law was evaded by drawing leases for ninety-nine years. In Massachusetts a ground lease is dealt with in the law as a purchase, but in most states there is no limit on the period of a lease.

#### The Favorite

According to a poll taken recently by a musical magazine, "Abide With Me" is the favorite hymn both here and in America. It was written by a clergyman an hour or so before he died.—London Tit-Bits.

#### World Listens to Critics

The opinion of the great body of the reading public is very materially influenced even by the unsupported assertion of those who assume to criticize.—Macaulay.

#### Not Exactly

"I wasn't exactly hazed," remarked a prominent fullback, home from college for a holiday, "but they made me study."—Detroit News.

## KARENS OF BURMA



Bre Girls of the Burma Highlands.

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

**A**LTHOUGH the majority of the Burmese have a well-developed civilization, there are hill tribes in Burma whose members are strikingly primitive. Most of them are classed as Red or White Karens.

In the old days the Red Karen never went out without dha (sword) and gun, and in addition had a small sheaf of spears or rather javelins. Now, the guns remain at home, only to be used when there is a death in the village. They are fired then to scare away the disembodied spirit.

All the dead are looked upon as evil-minded or, at all events, malevolent characters, best driven away.

The Karen spears have vanished so completely that the hunter after curios has difficulty in getting them. They are of a very distinctive character, sharpened on one side only, like a knife-blade, with a male bamboo shaft that had a spike at the butt, so that the owner could stick it in the ground when he was hoeing his fields or cutting his crops, and be ready for any stranger.

But the Red Karen remains a heavy drinker. Early prospectors for teak forests used to say that a genuine Karen never went abroad without taking a bamboo on his back, from which a tube led to his mouth. Apparently they could carry their liquor then, inside and out.

In addition to their liking for spirits from the still, the Red Karens are devotees of the spirits of the air, the flood and the fell. Latterly a few have become nominal Buddhists, and some have even founded monasteries and built pagodas, but none of them give up their belief in nats, to use the Burmese word for spirits.

#### Ornaments of Brass

The Karen's idea of ornamentation seems to Western eyes to make for anything but comfort. They wear great coils of brass wire and brass rods on their arms and legs. The length of these coils seems only limited by the space available or the ability of the household to pay for the rod, for brass is very expensive.

The total weight carried by the average woman is 50 or 60 pounds, and here and there some manage as much as 70 or even 80.

Burdened with this weight, they hoe the fields, carry water for domestic use, and go long distances to village markets to sell liquor. They brew a great deal of very fiery stuff and sell it to most of their neighbors, carrying it in flasks made of woven strips of bamboo lacquered over with wood-oil, and dispensed in goblets of the same manufacture. The cups are of most generous size. They hold about half a pint, and those not trained to it usually become dizzy after one.

The brass-collar fashion does not seem to affect the women's health. There are plenty of active old crones among them and families of eight or ten are quite common. The only noticeable effect is that the women speak as if some one had them tight around the neck. They wear colored scarfs twisted into the hair, jumper coats which slip over the head, have a fashionable V-shaped front and back, and very short sleeves, with occasionally a little embroidery.

The skirts are like kilts, stopping above the knee and striped red and blue. The necklaces are of the usual kind, with cornellans and other stones, coins and beads.

#### One Clan of Good Farmers

The Kekawngdu clan occupies a tract covering, perhaps, 150 square miles.

They are zealous agriculturists. Every available nook of the valley is terraced for irrigation, which is carried out with great skill and eye for contour. They grow a good deal of cotton and make their clothes of it. The average height of their country is between 3,000 and 4,000 feet, with peaks rising to 5,000. Their roads are well aligned, fairly broad, and much used, and are considered very good by those who have traveled over hill-roads, though a bicycle would have to be carried for three miles in every four.

Pack bullocks are kept and caravans go down to Toungou on the railway. On the whole, they may be said to be the best of the hill races in this neighborhood, and they have great game drives with trained dogs.

Some authorities have doubts as to whether they are Karens and want to place them in the Mon-kmer group. Their language, however, has many similarities with Taungthu.

Some distance to the north of the Padaung country—with the small Red Karen State of Nawngpial intervening—is the Ere tract.

Their country is of a different character from that of the Padaungs. It is a much more emphatic jumble of hills, very high and steep, with exceedingly narrow valleys in between.

The dress of the Ere men is more distinctive than that of the Padaungs. They wear a pair of very short trousers, striped red and white, and tied at the waist with a bit of string. A blanket of coarse cotton serves for a coat, and their long black hair is tied into a knot, just over the right temple, and the rest, apparently never combed, hangs over the shoulders and face. On their legs they wear cotton circlets below the knee, with brass rings to keep the coils apart. Many of them also wear necklets or torques of brass.

The dress of the women varies for the three groups, but the differences are not great. The chief garment is a gabernde called thindaing by the Burmese, perhaps more like a poncho, since it is slipped over the head, and has either rudimentary sleeves or none at all. They also wear a short kirtle which reaches within a hand's breadth of the knee, but some dispense with this. It is red and blue in stripes.

#### Decorations of the Bre People

The women in the northern section of the Ere tract have brass tubing coiled round the leg from the ankle to the knee, and from above the knee to half way up the thigh. The southern Bre women have to content themselves with cotton coils instead of brass. Both wear large brass hooks or torques round the neck, and enormous ear-plugs are fixed through the lobes of the ears.

They have no head-dress, and their hair, which is unkempt as that of the men, is tied in a knot at the back of the head. They marry very early—the girls at about thirteen, the youths at fifteen years of age.

It is an easy matter to determine whether or not a man has a wife. The unmarried wear pebble necklaces which have been banded down from father to son for generations. Some of them are valued at 50 rupees, which is wealth for these hills.

Besides these, large brass rings encircle the man's neck, hang from the ears, and are inserted in the cotton garters on his legs. The northern Bre bachelor adds to these ornaments a twisted bamboo band round the head, studded with mother-of-pearl shirt-buttons or small red and green beads, as a sort of setting to the shards of large green beetles.

### Macaws Given as Proof of Columbus' Discovery

When Christopher Columbus returned in triumph procession to Barcelona, in the spring of 1493, the gold which he brought from his "India" was of greatest interest to Ferdinand and Isabella.

They laughed at the shrieks and antics of his 40 parrots, but it was these birds which aided in latter-day proof that Columbus had in reality sailed to a new world. The gold

pieces, which meant nothing, now are museum exhibits. The Department of Agriculture would like to add a representative of the race of parrots to its museum lore, but the birds have vanished. They were known to ornithologists of later years as Cuban macaws, and were to be found nowhere in the world except in eastern Cuba and in a few of the other West Indies.

The historians of the day cited these Cuban macaws as proof that Columbus had discovered a western route to