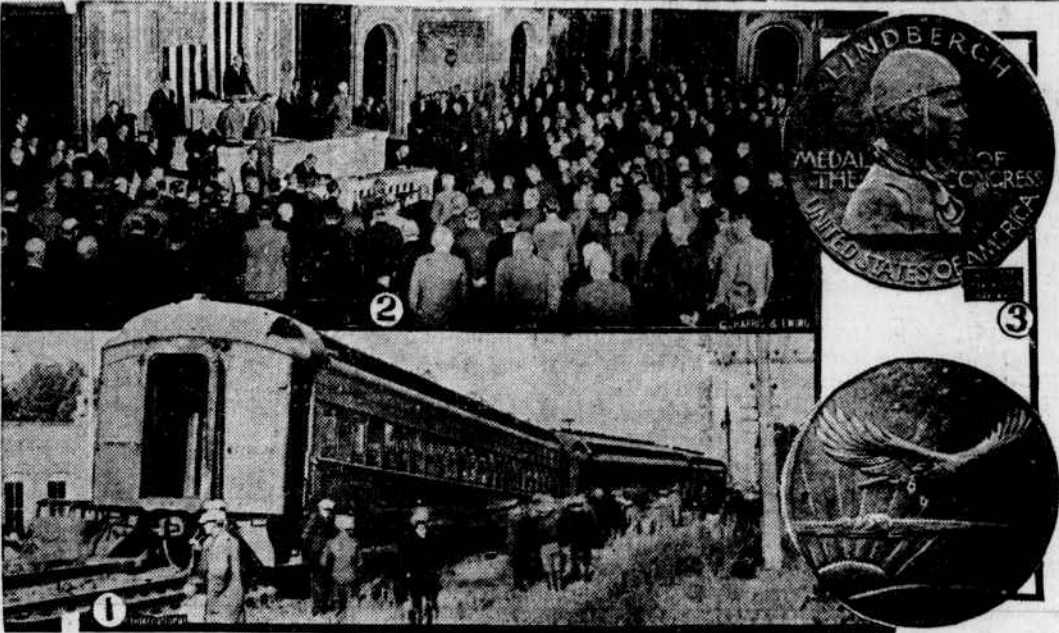


# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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1—View of train wreck on the Pennsylvania railroad near Olney, Va., in which nine were killed and many injured. 2—Scene in the house of representatives as the first regular session of the Seventy-first congress opened. 3—Design, by Mrs. Laura G. Fraser, for the medal authorized by congress to commemorate the achievements of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

### Congress Hears President's Message and Gets Busy on Tax Reduction.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

CONGRESS is doing business again at the old stand, the first regular session having opened Monday with perfunctory meetings of both houses. Next day President Hoover's annual message was read in senate and house, being listened to with intense interest and praised by administration supporters and criticized by the opposition.

The document was long and comprehensive, consisting of a matter of fact statement of what the administration has done and of what it hopes to do in the near future, followed by many recommendations to the legislative body. Concerning international matters the President expressed "high hopes" for the success of the naval conference in London, and made the significant statement that if the movement for reduction of armament fails, the United States may find it necessary to spend upward of \$1,200,000,000 in naval construction in the next six years. He gave praise to the Kellogg-Briand pact, and said he would submit to the senate later the amended world court reservations. He urged ratification of the French debt settlement. In view of the uncertainty with respect to future revenue, the President recommended that the proposed 1 per cent cut in individual and corporation income taxes be limited to the present year. He urged early action on the tariff bill, again asking that the measure be devised to aid agriculture and industries that have not been prosperous, and once more he advised that the flexible tariff provision be retained.

Mr. Hoover's liking for commissions was evidenced in several recommendations. These included suggestions for a commission to study the problem of branch, group and chain banking, a commission to dispose of the Muscle Shoals controversy and a commission to study conditions in Haiti. The message advocated an increase in appropriations for rivers and harbors improvement from \$50,000,000 to \$55,000,000 annually, at least half of which should be available for the Mississippi inland waterways system. It also asked bigger appropriation for construction of public buildings and for ocean mail contracts. Concerning the reorganization of government departments, the President said he had come to the conclusion that the only way to avoid endless controversy was to delegate authority to the executive.

When he reached the subject of prohibition and law enforcement the President used decidedly vigorous language. In dealing with the former he said that "it is not to be expected that any criminal law will ever be fully enforced so long as criminals exist," and of law enforcement and observance generally he said it is "the most serious issue before our people." He scored the citizen who insists on selecting the particular laws which he will obey, branding him as the enemy of society. He made a number of recommendations for legislation to aid in enforcement of the prohibition law.

ON WEDNESDAY the President sent to congress the budget for the fiscal year 1931 calling for the expenditure of \$3,830,000,000. Of this sum about \$719,000,000 are for national defense activities, including the laying down of the three 10,300 ton

cruisers on which suspension of work was ordered by President Hoover last summer. An outlay of \$33,000,000 for the army and navy air services is contemplated, and \$30,000,000 is to be expended on public buildings.

SPEEDY action on the administration's \$100,000,000 tax reduction program was obtained in the house, the joint resolution for the legislation going through practically without opposition. It was assumed that the senate also would adopt the resolution after some debate, and that the legislation would be enacted before the Christmas holidays. While the reduction applies to only one year, there were indications that the President hopes it can be made permanent.

THE senate, according to program, took up the three year old controversy over the right of William S. Vare of Pennsylvania to a seat in that body. Efforts to delay the debate were defeated, and on Wednesday Mr. Vare himself, crippled by partial paralysis and watched over by his physician, appeared in the senate chamber and read a detailed denial of the charges of fraud and corruption in his campaign for nomination and election in 1923. Every one knew that Vare's appeal was hopeless, for a majority of the senators were hostile to his cause. The privilege and elections committee had decided in his favor the contest brought by W. B. Wilson, the defeated Democratic candidate, but a minority of that committee reported that alleged ballot box frauds and corruption made Vare's election illegal. Radical Republican senators could vote for this report because it would accomplish the exclusion of Vare without seating a Democrat.

WHEN President Hoover and Secretary Stimson, backed by Great Britain, took cognizance of China's appeal and sent a note to Russia and China asking them to remember their obligations under the Kellogg pact and stop their warlike activities in Manchuria, they ran against an ugly snag. Maxim Litvinoff, acting Russian commissar of foreign affairs, replied with a brusque note virtually telling the United States to mind its own business. He attempted to justify Moscow's course in the Manchurian embargo, and then emphasized that the United States government had appealed to Russia at a time when direct negotiations were being carried on with Manchuria. By strength of this circumstance, the American note to Russia was termed an unjustified attempt to influence the Chinese-Russian negotiations and consequently could not be considered as a friendly act.

The commissar followed this with a public statement in the course of which he advised the United States and Great Britain to turn their minds toward activities in South America, warships in Chinese waters, and armies in colonial countries rather than attempt to obstruct the Russo-Chinese negotiations.

Secretary Stimson in a statement to the press made a sharp rejoinder upholding the right of any nation to mobilize world public opinion against a threatened outbreak of war. The Nationalist government of China announced it would do all possible to effect a peaceable settlement with Russia of the controversy over the Chinese Eastern railway.

NEARLY four hundred of the country's leaders in business, finance and industry gathered in Washington Thursday at the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to take steps for the advancing of President Hoover's campaign of business progress. Mr. Hoover himself told them first of the progress made

through the series of conferences held previously, and Assistant Secretary Klein of the Commerce department addressed them on "the elements of strength and weakness in the present business situation."

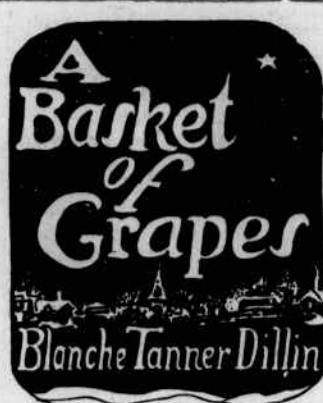
A general discussion followed, culminating in the organization of a permanent committee, which is to maintain an alert scrutiny over national production, distribution and consumption, for the purpose of noting depressions in particular fields as they develop and of evolving a means of ending them before they become serious.

KING VICTOR EMMANUEL and Queen Helena of Italy made history Thursday, when they paid their formal visit to Pope Pius. They were the first sovereigns of united Italy ever to enter the Vatican. Minister of Foreign Affairs Dino Grandi, Count de Vecchi, Italian ambassador to the holy see and a great throng of courtiers accompanied the rulers to the Vatican City, all being in closed automobiles and escorted by cyclist police. Hundreds of thousands of persons gathered in the streets to witness the procession, and on buildings along the way the Italian and papal colors were displayed. High officials of the Vatican City met the king and queen at the Arch of Charlemagne, the papal gendarmes presented arms and their band played the royal march. After a lot more stately ceremonial the visitors entered the throne room alone, the pope met them and raised them up as they bent to kiss his hand; then the door closed and the three conversed alone for a time. The royal pair as they left carried precious religious gifts bestowed by the pontiff. After calling on Cardinal Gasparri, papal secretary of state, and receiving holy water from Cardinal Merry del Val, they worshiped in St. Peter's and returned to their palace.

POSTMASTER GENERAL BROWN'S annual report revealed that the deficit in his department for the year ending June 30 was \$35,461,176, or more than twice as big as the previous year. Among the factors responsible for this fact were the granting of \$7,470,000 additional pay to postal workers and the payment of \$7,390,000 on ocean mail contracts; also the downward revision of postal rates during the last year reduced revenues about \$21,528,000 below what they would have been. Mr. Brown's report said that the department handled free of charge special privileged mail that otherwise would have paid in nearly ten millions of dollars.

REPRESENTATIVE TINKHAM of Massachusetts has prodded the senate committee on lobbying so severely that it may inquire into the activities and sources of revenue of a lot of lobbyists other than those whose concern is with the tariff. These may include the Anti-Saloon league and other bodies that are supposed to influence the votes of congressmen in matters relating to prohibition. Chairman Caraway of the committee told Mr. Tinkham the investigators would give him a public hearing. The Massachusetts representative has introduced a measure to require, under the threat of heavy penalties for violators, the registration of persons attempting to influence legislation.

COBLENZ, GERMANY, was ablaze with bonfires and torches and gay with banners during a twenty-four celebration of the liberation of the second zone of occupation of the Rhineland. As the allied troops marched out, the German authorities marched in, the bands played and the people rejoiced hysterically. It has been announced that the last of the British occupational troops will leave the Rhineland on December 12.



IN THE east of a cloudless sky shone a bright star as a beacon, over the town. Groups of town folk hurrying in its direction appeared as the wise men who followed the star of old.

Every one would be attending the Christmas entertainment given at the church, so no need to keep his fruit shop open, decided Matt Hughes, as he joined the happy joyous throng going in that direction.

From where he sat he could plainly see the star, and he fell to dreaming of another Christmas when that same star shone as brightly as now, but instead of the snow-clad hills of New England there was the wide expanse of the California desert. Across that desert toward the star rode a lone horseman, a song on his lips and a smile on his face. From his saddle hung several packages in the bright holiday wrappings.

As he drew near a cabin the song changed to a shout of greeting which died to a low exclamation of surprise as he saw there was no welcoming light. After searching in the dark he had struck a light, and then had come the discovery of the written message. It was the same old story—unaccustomed to the desert the problems confronting one trying to conquer it had proved too big. Howard James, the playmate of his childhood, college friend and later neighbor out here in the West, proved now to be the real love of Dolly Hughes instead of Matt.

One day the name James Howard was spoken in his presence; the similarity in the name of his former friend caused him to locate the man. Then he learned that Dolly had not survived long after reaching there.



Matt Silently Extended His Gift.

With a curse on his lips the husband left, and although the two had lived in the same village for several years, they had never spoken to each other; but Matt had never revealed the identity of the other man.

Words of the program mingled with his dream, such as "The Glory of the Lord shone round" and "They brought Him gifts" and the words of the minister at parting—"Little children love one another."

An idea which formed quickly in his mind crystallized into action and Matt found himself hurrying first to his shop and then to a little home in the other part of town. Entering the presence of his once while friend, Matt silently extended his gift.

"Matt!" the word was half a question and half an exclamation. The one addressed placed his offering in the other man's hands.

"Howard," he said, "I have brought a token of forgiveness." As he saw what the basket contained Howard clasped the gift more tightly.

"A basket of California grapes!" he cried over and over. "Just what I have longed for."

"Why it's only a basket of grapes," stammered Matt.

"No," Howard after a moment replied in a choked voice, "it's much more than that; it's an answer to prayer."

"Well," Matt said as he turned to go, "I'm glad that you like them." At the door he turned and extended his hand.

"Merry Christmas, Howard," he said.

The other grasped the outstretched hand—"Merry Christmas Matt, and God bless you." And the next moment the bearer of the gift was out under the stars.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
by Katherine Edelman  
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Merry Christmas! No two other words could ever hold so much of warmth and gladness within them. There is a nameless something in their sound that fills the heart with happiness. As we hear them, the Christmas spirit, that most delightful and happiest of feelings, takes possession of us. And it is no selfish happiness that the words awake, for we are not content to keep it to ourselves; we want to go out and make others happy, too, to share our joy with all the world. We want to bring a smile to other faces; to help lessen and lighten the burdens that others may be carrying.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
Just two short words, and yet how much they mean! unnumbered hours of happiness bring! What glad and joyous things we wish for those we love as we call them out. What hopes surge within our hearts that the best in life may come to them! As we repeat the words, friendships grow deeper and more sincere, and home ties and ties of kindred sweeter and stronger. There is a magic within them that makes us prize and value all the gifts that are ours; that makes us appreciate and cling close to our precious possessions.

And what memories they awaken! Memories of other happy Christmas days; of hallowed friends and comrades that are now beyond the grasp of our hands, of never-forgotten days of childhood.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
A smile and a song follow the words. They can bring gladness into every heart and bright sunshine into the day. And as long as the world goes on they will always remain as now, the happiest, the heartiest and the most joyous words that man can speak or write.

**Christmas Is for Children**  
Christmas is first of all for the children. Don't forget the tree and that they will enjoy making the popcorn balls and candy and stringing bits of cotton to hang from the branches.



HERE are all sorts of presents. Some presents are duty presents. These are not quite so nice. Some presents are presents exchanged between friends for years and years and years. These are very nice, keeping up the old friendship, the old traditions, the old links.

Sometimes these are between people who have not seen each other for years, who keep up their friendship, who keep it secure through all the years by the Christmas link.

Then there are presents one gives to children. These are always fun. And there are presents one can give to children who otherwise would have no Christmas. These are even more fun. And there are presents one can give to little lonely, wide-eyed children who gaze wistfully into lighted shop windows.

There is hardly anything that brings a glow to the heart more than giving presents that are complete and overwhelming surprises to the recipients.

Then there are presents one can give to those faithful postmen who so unerringly bring the greatest boon in the world to one's door—the mail. And there are presents one can give to one's milkman and team and to little boys who deliver packages and messages around Christmas time. And all of these presents are such a pleasure to give. They are the presents that give such happiness to the giver, and the recipient feels the giver's good wishes, appreciation, tribute.



**Christmas on a Battleship**  
By HAROLD COOK

NICE old lady who had no relatives, but who did have plenty of money, wanted to spread Christmas happiness where she thought there would be none. She therefore prepared fifty beautiful packages all nicely wrapped in white tissue paper and nicely tied with red ribbon. In the packages were things she thought would be acceptable to Uncle Sam's sailors.

On Christmas afternoon she and the packages piled into the back of her car and her chauffeur drove her to the navy yard.

She was immediately conducted to the flag ship. It was beautifully trimmed for the holiday. Christmas trees were everywhere—on the stern on the bow, on the towers, and ever at the ends of the gang planks leading to the ship. And one whole deck had been divided up into little booths by the different divisions of sailors and decorated like Greenwich Village dance halls for a festive celebration. Dim lights, fire places, radio music and girls and children were everywhere. The sailors were dancing and having a fine time. The children wandered unrestricted and wide-eyed or all parts of the ship. They were orphans from the city, whom the sailors had entertained for dinner. And here is a list of the good things that the orphans and the sailors had to eat:

Celery, pickles and olives, roast turkey with giblet gravy, oyster dressing and cranberry sauce, baked spiced ham with green peas and asparagus tips, candied sweet potatoes and boiled onions and mashed potatoes. Lettuce and tomato salad, mince and pumpkin pie, mixed nuts, oranges and

candles, pound cake and ice cream bread and butter and coffee.

Besides this splendid dinner the sailors had given each orphan a Christmas package of toys, and the men of one division had added a dollar bill to each package they gave out so that the child could buy what he wanted for himself if Santa Claus had not given it to him. Happiness beamed in the eyes of everybody.

The good old woman was delighted. She asked her guide to find some sailors who had not received any presents themselves, and soon forty-nine of them, mostly orphans themselves, were gathered around her to receive gifts. Thus these careless sailors who had so generously given of their little to make other, younger orphans happy, each received for himself the kind of present that he could enjoy most on the ship.

But the kind old lady was reserving the loveliest package of all for some special case. She was just beginning to wonder if there was one such, when her guide took her into the sick ward. About twelve sailors were lying there in bed with books and boxes and even flowers all around. They looked very happy. The old lady asked the attendant if they had all had a happy Christmas, and he replied, "Yes, madame, all but one." He pointed to the far end of the room where there was a beautiful, smiling, black-haired boy lying in a bed. He seemed happy in just watching the other boys enjoy their presents, but he had not received a single gift himself as he was an orphan. Two little children whom he had especially befriended were standing by his bed talking with him. The old lady moved down toward him and handed him her loveliest package with a cheery "Merry Christmas!" Tears of gratitude and joy welled to the boy's eyes and the old lady hastened from the room to spare him the embarrassment of thanking her for her gift. Her eyes were moist, too, with tears of joy, for that was the climax of the happiest Christmas day that she had ever had.

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