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1—Neptune's envoys announce the coming of 1930 on the sands of Santa Monica, Calif. 2—Senator Frederick M. Sackett of Kentucky who was selected as American ambassador to Germany. 3—Office in the State, War and Navy building, formerly occupied by General Pershing, now used by President Hoover while the executive office building is being repaired after the fire.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Prohibition Enforcement Is Still the Chief Topic in Washington.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.
PROHIBITION enforcement continued to be the dominant question in Washington, and the dry leaders in congress were especially vocal in the controversy. The most important development of the week was the statement by Senator Wesley L. Jones of Washington that during conferences with members of the Hoover crime commission he had been glad to learn that the commission is unanimous in agreeing that its function is to devise the best means possible for enforcement of the Eighteenth amendment. Senator Jones averred that the commission holds that the wisdom or unwisdom of the amendment is not involved in its work.

This was held to be a severe blow to the hopes of the wets, though it is hard to see how the latter could have expected the commission to try to determine the practicability of prohibition.

Senator Jones asserted that the dry phase of the commission's work should be completed by July 1 and warned that a clear and convincing showing of its need will have to be made before funds for prolonging the prohibition inquiry beyond that date are made available. As Jones is prospective chairman of the senate finance committee, he will be in a position to supervise funds asked for the commission's work.

The Washington senator continued: "I find that an important report has already been given to the President. It will be submitted to the congressional joint committee sought by the President as soon as created and ready for work. Other reports will be ready soon."

"All seem to view the industrial alcohol situation as the most difficult one to solve properly, as well as one of the most important phases of prohibition enforcement. In working this out the commission should shield no individual and no line of business."

Senator Borah of Idaho repeated his attacks on the present dry enforcement personnel, asserting that "practically open saloons" are to be found all over the land. "When I say this," he said, "I do not mean simply New York or Chicago. I mean to state a condition which prevails throughout the country. I do not assume that you can catch every bootlegger. But the open saloon, defiant, persistent disregard of the law, day after day and month after month, with no effort being made to stop it, calls for discussion."

Mr. Borah sent one or two letters to President Hoover, and though their contents were not made public it was understood the senator offered proof of his assertions, and it was indicated that if the administration did not make use of the information given he would lay his evidence before congress.

Then came F. Scott McBride, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon league, with a statement in which he took issue with Borah's charges.

"The prohibition department has been doing good work, but there are places where conditions can be bettered," McBride said. "These will be found and corrected. The Department of Justice has had some bad spots. Mr. Mitchell has been active in correcting these but the job has yet to be completed."
"The most hopeful sign about the

situation is the fact that the legislative officers, as well as the administrative officers, including the President, are not sidestepping responsibility as has been true under some former conditions and the fact that in the Capital and all over the country enforcement is responding to official insistence."

Senator Brookhart of Iowa, the unrelenting foe of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, renewed his demands that President Hoover remove the secretary from his cabinet, and also declared that Undersecretary of the Treasury Ogden Mills, Assistant Secretary Seymour Lowman and Prohibition Commissioner James M. Doran should be dismissed.

COAST guardsmen seeking to prevent the landing of liquor near Newport, R. I., opened fire on a rum running boat, the Black Duck, and killed three members of the crew. Their action was upheld by their superiors, but the incident serves to provide more ammunition for the enemies of the Eighteenth amendment.

In old Faneuil hall, Boston, the Liberal Civic league held a mass meeting that sent to President Hoover a message asking a searching investigation of the slayings by the coast guard, and after the meeting a mob attacked the coast guard station.

Celebrants of New Year's eve in the larger cities found their activities were subjected to rather less interference by the enforcement officers than in recent years. The supply of intoxicating liquor seemed unlimited, though it is admitted most of it was synthetic with bogus labels.

THOUSANDS of Washingtonians and visitors to the National Capital attended the New Year's day reception held by President and Mrs. Hoover. Among the callers were the members of the cabinet, the handsomely garbed diplomatic corps, senators and representatives and many high officers of the army and navy. Sir Eame Howard, the British ambassador, and Lady Isabella were the first of the long line of diplomats to wish the Hoovers a happy New Year. The chief justice and Mrs. Taft were missing from the White House reception for the first time in years, owing to the death of Charles P. Taft.

IF JOUETT SHOUSE, chairman of the Democratic national executive committee, knows what he is talking about, we are not likely to have a new tariff act in the near future. He issued a statement in Lexington in which he said that either the coalition tariff measure, which attempts to carry out the promise of real tariff benefits for the farmers, will be enacted or there will be no tariff bill at all. "That latter," he said, "is the more probable outcome, which means that months and months of congressional sessions have been utterly wasted because of the effort to jam through a tariff revision that had no reason in economy or justifiable excuse at this time."

INDIA'S Nationalists under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi have taken a bold step toward independence for their country. The national congress, with only six dissenting votes out of 2,000, adopted Gandhi's resolution for a middle course toward the objective. The resolution authorized the all-India congress committee, an executive body of about 300 members, to launch, whenever it thinks the time ripe, a program of civil disobedience to include non-payment of taxes and similar resistance to British rule.

The Indian Liberal federation has accepted the British declaration of ultimate dominion status for India.

PRINCE CAROL seemingly is still trying to gain the throne of Rumania, and Italy is reported to have

espoused his cause in a way that has aroused the anger of the Rumanians. Recently Signor Preciosi, Italian minister to Bucharest, called at the Rumanian foreign office and informed it in the name of the Italian government that Italy considered it necessary to regularize the dynastic succession to the Rumanian throne and that Prince Carol should be recalled to Rumania and crowned king.

The Rumanians do not dare to make effectual protest against this interference in their internal affairs for they fear they would be isolated in their quarrel with Yugoslavia, which they and Italy regard as an enemy.

THERE was great rejoicing and celebration in China over the announcement of the Nationalist government that extraterritoriality was to be summarily ended on January 1. But the state council's mandate evidently was issued for home consumption and it had little or no effect in the treaty ports, where the foreign officials still declined to let their nationals be tried in native courts. Foreign Minister C. T. Wang said his government was prepared to consider and discuss, within a reasonable time, any representations made by foreign nations with reference to the Chinese decision to end the consular court system and assume legal jurisdiction over foreigners.

SENATOR FREDERICK M. SACKETT of Kentucky has been selected as ambassador to Germany. He was cruising in the West Indies when informed of this fact and that the German government had announced that his appointment was acceptable to it. Mr. Sackett started back to Washington at once, saying he would resign from the senate and soon be ready to leave for Berlin.

KENNETH HAWKS, movie director and sportsman, and nine other men engaged in the filming of venturesome air "shots," were hurled to death in the Pacific ocean in two tangled, blazing monoplane off the Palos Verde hills, 25 miles from Los Angeles. Eyewitnesses said that one of the two planes poised above the other and then, as if the pilot had lost his vision in the piercing rays of the setting sun, had darted down and struck the top of the lower plane.

SCOTLAND'S worst tragedy of 1929 came just at the close of the year. A moving picture theater at Paisley was thronged with children attending a gala performance when fire broke out in the projection booth. Panic ensued, and within a few moments seventy little ones were dead and scores injured.

MOST noteworthy of the deaths of the week was that of Charles P. Taft, Cincinnati newspaper publisher and half-brother of William Howard Taft, former President and now chief justice of the United States Supreme court. Eighteen months ago Mr. Taft was stricken with pneumonia and he never had fully recovered. He had a distinguished career as a lawyer and publisher, served one term in congress and was prominent in state and civic affairs.

NEW YEAR'S day was Football day in California. In the great Rose Bowl at Pasadena the University of Southern California met the undefeated team from the University of Pittsburgh and fairly swamped it, winning by a score of 47 to 14. In San Francisco teams of star college players from the East and the West battled in a game, for charity, the Easterners scoring 19 points to 7 for their rivals.
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FOR HER HUSBAND'S APPROVAL

(© by D. J. Walsh.)

MRS. AND MRS. WILLIS had but lately returned from their first trip abroad. They had wandered, often sadly bewildered, through approved picture galleries. They had dined at the Cheshire Cheese. They had been secretly disappointed that Shakespeare's house was so tacky looking, as Mrs. Willis expressed it.

But Mr. Willis had been bitten by the mosquito of European culture (as he understood it, that is). He presented his wife with a cigarette-holder and the good woman nearly fainted. She confided in the occupant of the next deck chair (from Ohio) and that worthy suggested a psychiatrist.

"Not that awful psychoanalysis?" cried poor Mrs. Willis, who had been given a book on that subject by her enterprising husband and never rightly recovered.

"No, no, my dear," soothed the Toledo woman, "nothing like that." (It would never do to admit she'd never heard of Freud, but she hadn't.) "I mean, well, just a doctor, who, well, takes care of—"

"Crazy folks?" cried poor Mrs. Willis. "Well, do you know I was half afraid that awful hot day in Paris, and Mr. Willis would sit and eat outdoors. And no real cooling ice cream sodas, either. I can't see myself why people go to Paris for food. Give me a good pile of hot cakes, or a nice fried pork chop."

"That's just what my Gerald says, but you have to come aboard just to be thankful you aren't a foreigner, I guess," rather lamely, for just then the sprightly Willis loved in sight. He bowed, in what his distressed wife thought a French manner.

A week later Mr. Willis poked the hash in front of him in disgust.

"Why can't we have croquettes?" as asked irritably.

"Because, Wednesday, when your poor uncle Timothy came to dinner he thought I said croquet, and you know you laughed, and, after all, even if he is deaf, he has what little money there is in your family."

"Well, but Uncle Timothy isn't here tonight. I insist on more modern ways. You have defied me about smoking. Well, I suppose every one can't like the taste of tobacco. But I insist, insist, mind" (Mrs. Willis was reminded of a peppery general in an English play, and was certain that trying character had precipitated this scene). "I say again I insist on modern cookery. We are no longer obliged to consider every cent. We've traveled—"

"Unhappily, yes," sighed the poor wife, wondering if the psychiatrist was urgently needed. "You've never been the same sensible man since we started that trip, never."

"I will not put up with nagging," cried Willis, starting for the door.

"That afternoon Mrs. Willis motored quietly to town. She had a long talk, not with the mental specialist, but with the up-to-date bookseller. And her topic was cookery books. The bookseller was very modern. He sprinkled vitamins all over his conversation as if they were paprika. Mrs. Willis was impressed. She took an exotic volume with pictures of carrots and tables of calories. She drove musingly home.

The next day was Wednesday, the day sacred to the deaf and wealthy Uncle Timothy; the day, also, when other members of the families were wont to drop in after dinner to listen to the really excellent Willis radio.

Mrs. Willis was not without humor. And she had quite a full share of common sense, albeit she refused point blank to wear Spanish heels, rouge her nice red cheeks or make herself "sick at the stomach" as she worded it, with a cigarette.

"I'm a Victorian," she asserted, "and a Victorian I'll die."

However, she cooked a varied and appetizing appearing meal, using a multitude of odd nut combinations of which she'd never heard and of whose power to delight her newly fastidious husband and the robust Uncle Timothy she had grave doubts.

Laboriously she wrote menu cards. They'd had them at the club once when a noted temperance lecturer had come to Grassville, and she knew they were "classy."

"Putting on dog," growled Uncle Timothy, adjusting his specs to read the card. "Pity for Americans to go abroad if they can't keep their senses. Percy (to Mr. Willis), why d'you let that good wife of yours lose her head? She'll be trying to smoke next, like some of those flappers I see. Disgraceful, I call it, and a woman well past forty, too."

He picked over his salad. "What's this? Carrots don't look cooked to

me," he roared; "we ain't donkeys. How's that, eh?"
Eva Willis grew red. But she valued Uncle Timothy's good opinion too much not to stand by her colors, now, and she noticed that her Percy's ears were crimson.

"The truth is, uncle, that Percy is ashamed of me since we came home. He's all for the new fashions. (A frantic kick under the table prevented—possibly—an allusion to the cigarette holder.) "Well," she resumed, without wincing perceptibly, "I find we're all out of date eating so much meat. No vitamins, and most people with high blood pressure and so on, really dangerous. So tonight I determined to serve a real modern vegetarian dinner, with raw carrot salad. Just like that high-toned Dumbles Head Rest cure, that is so fashionable, uncle."

"Dumb-bells is right," again roared Uncle Timothy, "so it's Percy that is the fool, eh? Well, I always respected your good sense," he said more softly, "and now, ain't there a nice pork chop in the ice box? Or I could do with a nice platter of scrambled eggs or so, but never as long as I live will I eat grass. It isn't Christian."

Meekly, Mrs. Willis rose and glided into the kitchen. In a suspiciously short time a dish of well-browned chops was on the table with French fried potatoes and tomatoes.

Uncle Timothy beamed.

"Tell you what," he said, "I wouldn't have been so upset if you'd set me a dish of snails, seeing that I know Frenchies eat 'em. But when it comes to donkey food. . ."

"You'd best throw that fool cook-book away," whispered Mr. Willis.

"Don't be scared. I didn't pay for it. Just got it for my husband's approval," nodded the lady.

History of Marionettes

Jointed figures moved by wires entertained early Egyptians, and ancient Greece loved the puppet show. England watched gravely while puppets enacted Bible stories. The courtiers of Charles the Second's day could be as much entertained by a puppet heroine as by a living Thomas Betterton or Nell Gwyn.

But gradually England grew tired of the doll actors. Almost the last English puppet shows dealt with the story of Napoleon, the death of Nelson, and Grace Darling's rescue of the crew of the Forfarshire. Then they, too, disappeared.

The continent has remained more faithful to the puppets. Maeterlinck has actually written for them, and in Italy, the marionettes have never lost public favor.

The Wanderers

It was a most astonishing thing, but the Smiths were always changing their residence.

Some people decided that perhaps Mr. Smith found moving about cheaper than paying rent, but the real reason was that Mrs. Smith loved a change.

One day a friend of the family, returning home rather later than was his usual practice, espied Smith following a van of furniture.

"Hello, Smith," he cried. "Movin' again! And where to this time?"

"I dunno," was the weary answer. "I'm just followin' the van to find out."—London Tit-Bits.

He Met a Foot, Anyhow

Pat Murphy was a great favorite in the works. Even his employer would sometimes stop and crack a joke with him.

One day the boss met Pat.

"Morning, Pat," he said. "I hear that lately you've taken quite a fancy for the girls."

Pat blushed and snickered.

"Have you not met your fate yet?" asked the boss.

"Sure and begorrah, sir," exclaimed Pat sadly. "I met one of her father's fate in one of his big shoes last night."

No Excuse

An accident is an event that takes place without one's foresight or expectation, says a Pennsylvania official, and so, strictly speaking, there are no automobile accidents. The driver who "runs contrary to the law of centrifugal force or the law of momentum is absolutely certain, sooner or later, to have a mishap."

Now you know what to expect. And when the mishap occurs don't try to wriggle out by saying you were never told these laws had been passed.

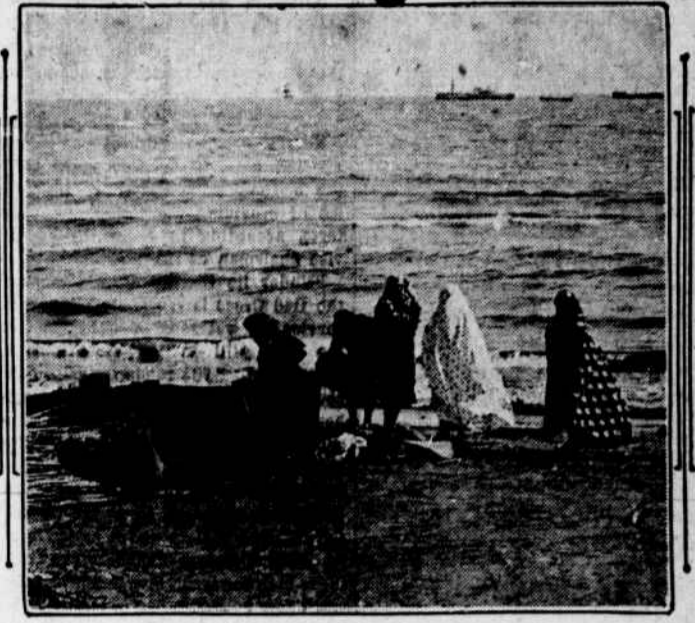
Woods Used for Paper

Spruce is the principal wood used in the manufacture of paper. Large quantities of hemlock are also consumed, as this wood ranks next to spruce in volume of material from which pulp is made.

Building Trouble

Most men worry all through their work about that which is to come, the thing they are going to do, the money they are going to get.—American Magazine.

Two Strange Seas



Scene on the Shore of the Caspian Sea.

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

THE world's two most important and best known bodies of water that lie below sea level are the Dead sea and the Caspian sea. The Dead sea is really a gigantic sinkhole. In no other continent is there such a deep depression in the earth's crust; nor will one find greater desolation or more uncomfortable conditions for man and most other living things even in the hearts of the greatest deserts.

The Hebrew scriptures have thrown an atmosphere of tragedy about this country. There, the chronicle states, were situated the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed by the wrath of Jehovah; and there the modern reader sees the blasted region, seared by unbearable heat, with its bitter death dealing waters, to prove the story to his satisfaction.

According to the Biblical narrative the Jordan valley and the plain near its mouth on the shores of the Dead sea where the destroyed cities lay shared the early good fortune of the Promised Land itself and "flowed with milk and honey." But an end was put to this pleasant condition by the rain of brimstone and fire.

The story of the region deciphered from its rocks by geologists begins much earlier than the days of the patriarchs whose actions are recorded in the Bible. This record seems to indicate that Palestine and the whole western end of Arabia rose from the sea a million or more years ago in what the geologists term the Tertiary era. Shortly after the rise, it seems, a great slice of the land parallel to the coast of the Mediterranean sank to great depth, forming the huge rift valley, "the Ghor," now occupied by the Jordan river and the Dead sea.

Dead Sea Has No Outlet.

It is believed that the climate of Palestine in remote times was moist and that the great inland lake was for a while kept at its highest point. When drier conditions set in the lake began to shrink, eventually retreating into the present position of the Dead sea and exposing the valley now occupied by the Jordan. This is practically the only large river in the world which flows in a valley ready-made for it almost from source to mouth.

The Dead sea depression having no outlet, all the salts contained in the large original inland sea were retained when evaporation reduced the volume of the body of water to its present dimensions. In addition, for hundreds of thousands of years the Jordan and the other streams and torrents that flow from the desert hills into the basin have been carrying in additional salts until now the waters of the Dead sea constitute one of the most highly concentrated natural brines in existence. It is estimated that on the average some six million tons of water flow into the Dead sea daily, and since the level of the sea changes but little, an equal amount is pumped out daily by evaporation.

The present Dead sea is 47 miles long and about 10 miles wide. Its surface lies approximately 1,300 feet lower than sea level and at its deepest point its bottom lies another 1,300 feet down. This great rift in the earth's crust, therefore, lies 2,600 feet below sea level and is the deepest hole in the land anywhere in the world. Because of the intense heat and dryness and the presence everywhere of salt the land immediately about the Dead sea is a region of desolation.

Caspian Sea is a Puzzle.

The Caspian sea was thought, in the earliest periods of recorded time, to be part of the great "stream of ocean" surrounding the habitable earth. Herodotus, the Greek Baedeker, mentions a visit to it in 458 B. C., when it was an open greater mystery

than today, for then no one knew its extent.

Some authorities claim that the Caspian had its origin in a great inland sea, an Asiatic Mediterranean, with an outlet to the Arctic ocean. In support of the Arctic outlet it is pointed out that seals are still hunted in the Caspian and there are other forms of life which show evidence of Arctic ancestry. It is argued that the Caspian owes its present size to climatic changes and evaporation. That the sea has reached other levels is evident by the number of terraces that can be seen back from the coast. However, to complicate matters, the weak development of the terraces indicates that the sea did not stand at any one level for a long time. Walls and cities have been found in many sections underneath the surface, an indication that the level of the water was even lower at one period than it is now.

Shifting shore lines are not the only eccentricities of the Caspian. Although 85 feet below the level of its neighbor, the Black sea, and with no known or possible outlet, the Caspian is less than half as salty. It is only three-eighths as salty as the ocean. Furthermore, the northern part, which receives large quantities of fresh water from the Volga, Ural and Terek rivers, is so slightly salty the water is quite drinkable.

The Black sea, with approximately an equal surface and almost the same climatic conditions, not only retains a constant level but is continually discharging at the Dardanelles. Yet the volume of water poured into the Black sea is not nearly so great as that which the Caspian receives. The Volga, alone, drains almost half a million square miles into the Caspian.

No other inland body of water is so richly stocked with fish, nor has as wide a range of species. The Caspian presents an intermingling of salt and fresh water forms. Before the World war the annual catch, including the seals of Krasnovodsk bay, was valued at more than five million dollars.

With an area equal to that of the state of California, or more than all the Great Lakes combined, the Caspian sea today occupies the deepest part of a great depression situated to the west and south of the Ural mountains. The northern or fresh water half is shallow, nowhere reaching a depth of more than 115 feet. The southern half, however, is cut by two deep depressions and soundings have reached 3,000 feet.

Coastal Strip Is Narrow.

Both the north and the east coasts are flat and hard to approach. Caucasus mountains on the west and the Elburz on the southern, or Persian shore are close to the sea and leave only a narrow coastal strip. On this strip are most of the important cities of the region. Taken as a whole the Caspian is not an attractive body of water. Its shores are as barren as the granite boulders of its bordering mountains. As there is no fresh water above or below the surface of the ground near the southern coasts, the inhabitants must bring drinking water from long distances or condense sea water. One of the distinguishing features of towns along this part of the Caspian sea is the floating condenser plant, usually some worn-out steamer or sailing vessel. Sometimes the water is piped ashore, sometimes it is carried in tank barges and then peddled around the streets, as is milk in other cities.

Baku, the capital of the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, is the largest city on the sea and the center of a prosperous, busy oil region. Its surroundings are like those of the nitrate towns along the coast of Chile, only the settlements are more numerous and better built. Before the war Baku was one of the most important cities in the Russian empire.