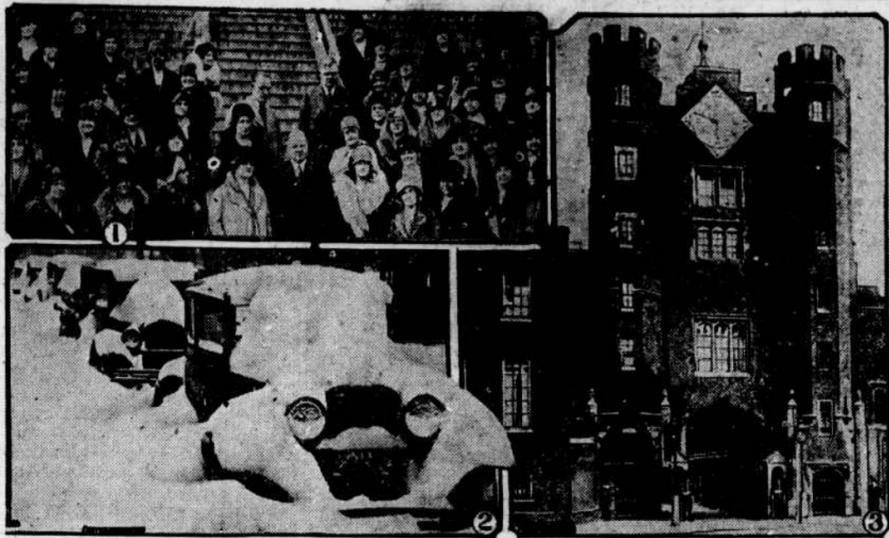


THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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1—President Hoover receiving members of General Federation of Women's Clubs gathered in Washington for their annual convention. 2—Automobiles buried in snow in Kansas City during fierce blizzard that swept over the Middle West. 3—Entrance to St. James palace, London, scene of the naval limitation conference.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Center of Stage in Capital Held by Prohibition Enforcement.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PROHIBITION was again the dominant topic in Washington, displacing the tariff and the naval conference in London. Somewhat hurried by political pressure, the Wickersham crime commission made a preliminary report and in submitting it to congress President Hoover made recommendations for legislation designed to facilitate enforcement of the dry laws. Then the fireworks started.

The commission's report was thus neatly summarized by the Boston Herald:

"In effect Chairman Wickersham and his associates say: 'Whether the Eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act are wise legislation or not, we do not choose to say. The law is here. Conditions in the courts and elsewhere are such that enforcement under ideal conditions has not been responsible. Set up some new machinery for enforcement, try it a while and ultimately we may have something to say on prohibition as prohibition. We defer judgment meanwhile.'"

The four major recommendations made by the commission were:

Unification of enforcement under the Department of Justice.

Machinery for speeding up prohibition cases in the federal court.

Codification of all statutes relating to prohibition.

Amendment of Volstead act to facilitate prosecution of padlock injunctions.

Here is what President Hoover asked of congress:

Reorganization of the federal court structure so as to give relief from congestion.

Consolidation of the various agencies engaged in prevention of smuggling of liquor, narcotics, other merchandise and aliens over our frontiers.

Provision of adequate prisons and reorganization of parole and other practices.

Specific legislation for the District of Columbia.

Legislation to give United States court commissioners enlarged powers in minor criminal cases.

Transfer of prohibition machinery from Treasury department to the Department of Justice.

IN THE house these recommendations were referred to the several committees especially concerned, and there was an apparent disposition to push the administration measures through in quick time; but it was thought they would encounter much opposition in the senate. The constitutional lawyers in both houses were prepared to fight especially the commission's plan to permit United States commissioners to handle petty prohibition cases on the ground that it deprived citizens of their constitutional right of trial by jury. Mr. Wickersham explained that this was a misapprehension, the plan merely assuring the defendant a speedy trial with the right to appeal to another court in which he would be tried by a jury.

The wets in the house organized for the coming battles by electing J. Charles Linthicum of Maryland leader of the bloc. Previously Representative James M. Beck of Pennsylvania had declined the post, explaining that while he opposed the prohibition law, he believed it to be "the manifest duty of the administration to enforce it."

Representative La Guardia of New York made a surprise attack on the

dry when he raised a point of order on the prohibition provisions of the pending Treasury department appropriation bill and offered a resolution to declare the Eighteenth amendment inoperative. La Guardia set forth the proposition that only ten of the state legislatures ratified the Eighteenth amendment within seven years, as required by its third section. The others, he said, ratified merely the joint resolution, which later became the constitutional article. Hence, he argued, the amendment and its enforcement legislation automatically died three years ago.

ALL this hullabaloo coincided with the tenth anniversary of the advent of national prohibition, and at the same time the Anti-Saloon league opened its twenty-fourth annual convention in Detroit. The leaders of the organization announced plans for raising a "war chest" of \$50,000,000 for use during the next ten years and said they were determined to rout utterly the organized forces that seek repeal or modification of the Eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act. General Superintendent F. Scott McBride in his address assuming a rather remarkable knowledge of the Creator's ideas, declared "The league was born of God. It has been led by Him and will fight on while He leads."

Dr. A. J. Barton, chairman of the executive committee, said: "The Anti-Saloon league is the most hated and feared organization in America. The wets are more and more amazed at the strength of our organization. In a plying and patronizing way they announce that we are dead or at least moribund. The wish is father to the thought; they know that we are very much alive."

ON THURSDAY the senate, by a majority of ten votes, rejected the proposal of the Republican regulars for an increase in the sugar tariff. The amendment of Senator Harrison of Mississippi forcing the retention in the tariff bill of the existing rate of 1.76 cents a pound on Cuban sugar, was adopted, 48 to 38. The finance committee had proposed a rate of 2.20 cents on Cuban sugar and the bill passed by the house put the rate at 2.40 cents.

The Western Independent Republicans, who combined with the Democrats to knock out of the Republican bill all rate increases except those on agricultural products, split on the sugar duty. Senators Borah of Idaho and Norris of Nebraska, leaders of his bloc, were among those voting against an increased rate.

GOVERNOR GREEN of Michigan, acting on recommendation of Arthur D. Wood, commissioner of pardons and paroles, has commuted the sentences of the five victims of the state's former "life for a pint" law, reducing their terms from life imprisonment to 7½ to 15 years, in conformity to the amended statute. The sixth sentenced under the former law committed suicide in his cell.

Oscar G. Olander, Michigan's commissioner of public safety, announced that the state police would be provided with fast automobiles equipped with machine guns and tear bombs to stop rum running between Detroit and Chicago. The officers will wear bullet proof vests.

In Providence, R. I., a special grand jury called to consider evidence in the slaying of three men aboard the rum runner Black Duck by coast guardsmen reported to the Superior court that, after thorough investigation, it had found no indictment.

SECRETARY OF STATE STIMSON and the rest of the American delegates to the naval limitation conference landed at Plymouth Friday morning and were speedily carried up to London. There Mr. Stimson spent several hours in conference with Prime Minister MacDonald, and on the

two following days he talked confidentially and at length with Premier Tardieu of France and Dino Grandi, Italian foreign minister. Presumably these conversations did much to clear the way to a tentative agreement in the conference, which was to open Tuesday.

To the advance guard of the newspaper correspondents from all over the world Mr. MacDonald said Great Britain would propose the abolition of battleships and submarines, not with any great hope of obtaining total abolition, but in the strong hope of securing a drastic reduction in these forms of armament and their possible extinction after a term of years. He favors reduction by categories rather than global tonnage, but France and probably Italy are committed to the latter plan and it is believed the United States is ready to accept it. The French and Italian delegations were reported still far apart on the question of naval parity. However, fair minded observers in London were convinced that all five of the delegations were sincere in their desire to obtain results of real international value and that while each of them would insist on adequate national defense, all were against the principle of armed supremacy. Therefore there is reason for optimism.

DELEGATES of the allies and of Germany in the conference at The Hague finally reached an agreement on the several questions of sanctions and formulated two declarations on the subject to be part of the Young plan protocol, the way to the signing of which was thus cleared. Germany agreed that in case she willfully defaulted any of the Young plan provisions any creditor nation might appeal to the court of international justice and if that court gave an affirmative decision, the creditor power or powers should resume "full liberty of action." That, of course, means the possibility of armed intervention or occupation, and both the Germans and the British hesitated to sign it, but this was necessary to prevent utter failure of the conference. Paul Moldenhauer, German minister of finance, had already promised that the Reichsbank would participate in the financing of the world bank for reparations, though Hjalmar Schacht, president of the Reichsbank, had fought stubbornly against this. Agreement was reached on the date of German payments, the fifteenth of the month, as demanded; on the moratorium question, with the provision that at the end of any period of suspended payments the amount postponed becomes payable immediately, and a special advisory committee is to determine whether Germany's economic life is endangered when moratorium is asked.

THROUGHOUT much of the Mississippi and Ohio river valleys flood conditions were increasing until they threatened to be the worst in years. Vast areas of farm land were inundated and many towns were isolated. Southern Indiana especially suffered, and extremely cold weather added to the distress, there and elsewhere.

The severest storms of the winter swept over the North Central states, and the heavy snowfalls extended even to Portland, Ore., and southern California. Still worse in destruction of life and property were the great gales that prevailed in England and northern Europe. About fifty persons were killed and many injured, the majority of deaths being due to the foundering of vessels.

GROVER CLARK returned to Pilep from a six weeks' inspection trip in the Wei river district on behalf of the China International Famine Relief and reported that thousands of persons are dying daily from famine and exposure.

THE ADORABLE LIAR

(© by D. J. Walsh.)

THERE are various factors involved in the choice of a husband and Rita Langdon tried to consider them all. Not that Rita deliberately set herself to the task of achieving matrimony. That would have been no task at all, but even the most confirmed business woman looks forward eventually to a husband, babies and a home. And Rita was no exception.

For the present she was well satisfied with her position in the office of the Carpo bookbindery. There were a number of nice boys employed in the bookbindery, but one after another Rita had eliminated them as prospective suitors. Then two new additions to the office staff came to claim her lagging interest—the boss' son and the new young man. And Rita took special care with her fluffy brown hair, her clear young complexion and her tidy dresses.

Rita was sitting very quiet, but quite occupied, in an obscure corner of the dingy stockroom. Soon John Benson, the new young man, came in and busied himself with a pile of book covers on a bench across the room. Rita remained silent, but observant. In a few minutes the apple man came into the room. Every one in that district knew the apple man, a small, gray, bent and feeble old man who toiled from office to office selling apples to clerks, bookkeepers and sundry workers.

"Hello, Dad," greeted Benson as the old man shambled into the room. "Feeling pretty spry today?"

"Pretty spry for my age, I reckon," answered the apple venter. "And I've got another birthday today."

"Really? Congratulations. And how old are you, if I may ask?"

"Guess," invited the old fellow.

Benson wrinkled his brows in an appraising look which was calculated to convey the impression of being very keen and searching.

"Not much over sixty, I should judge," he finally ventured. "I'd say about sixty-four."

"He-he-he, you're way off," chuckled the old chap in delight. "I'm eighty-four today."

"No," gasped Benson, as if greatly astonished. "You surely don't look it. Why, you're as spry and youthful as a man of sixty."

"Yes, sir," chuckled the octogenarian, "taint many men of my age can get around like I can."

Just then Sam Carpo, son of the boss, came into the room. The apple man turned to him in anticipated delight.

"Got a birthday today, bet you can't guess how old I am."

Carpo glanced casually at the wrinkled face and stooped figure, then replied:

"Oh, about eighty-four or eighty-five."

The old man's face drooped perceptibly and his body sagged even more, if that were possible. All the joy went out of his dim eyes.

"Do I look that old?" he asked slowly.

"Oh, he just overheard you telling me, that's how he knew," exclaimed John Benson, striving hastily to reassure the old man. "And say, I'm just starving for some apples, give me about a dozen of them."

After the apple man had left Benson turned angrily upon the haughty offspring of his employer.

"Say, you're a fine egg, you are," he accused. "Couldn't you have lied a little to the old man—told him he looked younger, just to make him feel good?"

"Well, he looks all of eighty-four, doesn't he?" argued Carpo.

"Sure he does," agreed Benson, "but it wouldn't have hurt you to guess twenty less just to make the old fellow happy. There's so much misery and grief in this old world that it isn't often you can make a person happy with just a simple little lie."

"Huh, why should I worry?" answered Carpo nonchalantly as he left the room.

As the door slammed behind him Rita came out of the concealment of her obscure corner and confronted John Benson.

"Pardon me for listening in," she announced, "but I heard you lie to the old man."

Benson turned with a start. "Didn't know you were in here," he said. "I'm afraid you've got me catalogued now as a—er—a penurious fabricator."

"Not at all," Rita replied sweetly. "I think that an adorable lie. It was really a gallant gesture and shows a fine consideration for other people's feelings. I like folks who are kind and thoughtful of others."

"Thanks—or—have an apple," the young man stammered.

Now, this tale is merely intended to

illustrate the great influence of small events in shaping our destiny. Of course, it may be that John and Rita would have fallen in love and married even without the initial impetus of this "adorable lie" incident. I don't pretend to know what might have happened.

But I do know that on this afternoon they sat perched on high office stools munching apples, laughing, swapping family histories and telling secrets. I am also told that young people work fast these days, and this information I deem quite correct, for that very same night John took Rita to a theater. Within two weeks they were engaged and within two months they were married.

The following year John set up in business for himself, with Rita's help, and established the Benson bookbindery. A year later Rita dropped definitely out of all business activity, for a certain John Benson, Jr., demanded much time and attention.

Every day a decrepit old man, bent and gray, comes into the Benson bookbindery with a basket of apples over his arm. The head of the firm invariably buys an apple, then remarks how young and spry the vender appears.

"Yes, sir," cackles the old man, happily. "Taint many men my age can get around like I can."

And John Benson nods in fervid agreement, for he is conscious of a deep obligation to the old man. Besides, he must maintain his reputation as an "adorable liar."

Falls of Niagara as Pictured by Hennepin

Father Louis Hennepin saw Niagara when he went West to the upper Mississippi with La Salle's expedition in 1679. He had a poor eye for distances, for in successive narratives he measures Niagara's height as 500 and 600 feet, instead of its maximum of 162, but he had a flair for vivid word pictures:

"Betwixt the Lake Ontario and Erie there is a vast and prodigious cadence of water which falls down after a surprising and astonishing manner, informing that the universe does not afford its parallel. 'Tis true Italy and Switzerland boast of some such things, but we may well say they are but sorry patterns when compared to this of which we now speak. . . . (The River Niagara) is so rapid above the descent that it violently hurries down the wild beasts while endeavoring to pass it to feed on the other side, they not being able to withstand the force of its current, which inevitably casts them down headlong above 600 feet. . . ."—New York Times.

Norwegian Hero

Olav I Trygvesson was king of Norway from 969-1000. He began his career in exile, fought for the Emperor Otto III and frequently raided the coast of France and the British Isles until he became converted to Christianity. He went to Norway and was accepted as king in 965. He immediately began to convert the country to Christianity. Olav was defeated in battle by the combined Swedish and Danish fleets. He fought to the last on his great ship known as the Long Snake, and finally leaped overboard and was seen no more. After his death he became the hero of his people, who constantly looked for his return.

Wasted Regrets

Regrets are a sheer waste of time. When we indulge in them, up again comes the experience we are regretting. So in a measure we suffer our sorrow and discontent again. Surely, to live over again the unhappiness of life is folly of the worst kind. And yet many of us love to keep friends with the untoward happenings of our past. Strictly speaking, we ought to have done with them. They belong to the limbo of the past—there let them lie.—London Tit-Bits.

Dahlia Originally Wild

The dahlia was first discovered in Mexico in 1615, where it was growing in the wilderness of the Sierras in myriads of colors. The Spanish botanists Cervantes and Cavanilles were the first to appreciate the greatness of this flower. Seeds of the dahlia were received at the royal gardens at Madrid in 1789 by Abbe Cavanilles. The first of these seeds flowered in 1790, producing semi double flowers, which were named after Dr. Andrew Dahl, a Swedish botanist.

Grammatical

An authority on correct English speaks as follows in regard to the position of personal pronouns connected by the conjunction: "When two or more personal pronouns in the singular are connected by 'and,' the second person precedes the first and the third, and the third person precedes the first; when the pronouns are used together in the plural number, the first person precedes the second and the third, and the second person precedes the third."

IN JAMAICA



Home, Sweet Home, in Rural Jamaica.

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

THE fertility of rural Jamaica affords such abundant food for slight exertion, and the mild climate requires so little shelter, that this area is a typical region of little work and much rest.

The Jamaica negro can exist and subsist with slight exertion—and he does. In the rural sea-level districts in particular there is no need for steady exertion the year round.

House rent demands no place, generally speaking, in the rural dwelling Jamaican black's budget. He can build his own home of heavy grass and thatch it with banana leaves, or he can make it of mud and thatch, with cobbled floor. The more prosperous among the natives build wood houses out of old packing cases, scraps of cast-off corrugated roofing, flattened kerosene-can tin, and the like. Tropical vines soon hide the patchwork, for Dame Nature is a great healer of scars.

Nor is clothing a pressing problem with the rural blacks. The children may run naked during the tender years. The womenfolk dress in cotton gowns, which they wear as long as there is a piece left, barring Sundays, when they appear neatly and becomingly attired, and those occasions when they go into the city to market. The men wear long cotton drawers or the remains of trousers, slinky shirts, and battered, frayed straw hats; but, in good sooth, who cares?

Earned Money in Panama.

The building of the Panama canal afforded the Jamaican negro an opportunity to earn some money, and at the same time to see what he thought was quite a bit of the world. During the construction period almost every ship that sailed from Kingston to Colon had its quota of workmen bound for the Canal Zone.

On the whole, the rural Jamaican negro is a likable individual; quite as irresponsible as a child, usually as much given to exaggeration; indifferent enough to modernity to be picturesque, respectful and retiring enough to be interesting; and one retains pleasant memories of the natives, content to be what they are, and as a class, law-abiding in major matters, however much they may indulge in petty misdemeanors.

One may charter a sturdy automobile at a really reasonable price for a tour around the island, leaving Kingston over a road that follows the coast almost its entire length. Presently, at Harbor Head, one comes to the Naval Watering place established by Admiral Vernon, under whom served Lawrence Washington and for whom our shrine on the Potomac, Mount Vernon, was named. The old conduit is still visible.

About 40 miles from Kingston, in the parish of St. Thomas, is the little town of Bath, and nearby certain mineral hot springs that are justly famous for their curative properties and made this beautiful spot a gathering place for Jamaican aristocracy as far back as two hundred years.

Port Antonio Worth Seeing.

Beyond, on the eastern extremity of the island, is Manchioneal, the scene of some of the exploits of Scott's "Tom Cringle." And then, as you motor along the foot of the John Crow mountains, past the Blue Hole, which so well deserves its name, eye-filling vistas of unrivaled beauty in the great bays and mountain side are unfolded, and in a very few hours, that all too quickly pass, Port Antonio looms into view, with its splendid two harbors, the westernmost of which is the best in the island.

In 1721 strenuous efforts were made by the Jamaican government to establish a settlement there. Thirty acres for every white person were offered and five acres for every slave imported, provided some part of each tract should be cultivated. This failing to bring enough immigrants, in 1723 two barrels of beef and one bar-

rel of flour were added as a bonus. Later four barrels of beef and 400 pounds of biscuit, or bread, were offered to each white newcomer, and one barrel of herrings and 400 pounds of bread for each slave.

It is worth while to linger a day or more at Port Antonio to enjoy the glorious scenery and creature comforts with the winter tourists who flock to the charming Titchfield hotel, twin of the Myrtlebank at Kingston; then to head westward along the coast to Annotto bay.

Here Columbus Has to Land.

You ride along past Annotto bay and Port Maria, the center of the north side banana industry, and where an additional annual treasure is gained by a bumper coconut crop, which is, perhaps, reflected in the well-being of both the homes and dress of the native workers; and just ahead lies St. Ann's bay, where "Still there walks the ghost of one that ate his heart in exile here—Don Cristoforo Colon, 400 years ago."

As one stands on the shore at St. Ann's bay and looks out across the Caribbean, he fancies he sees approaching again two weather-beaten, worm-eaten caravels, the Capitana and the Santiago de Palca. They fly the flag of the Great Discoverer.

In June, 1503, he had hidden his last farewell to the mainland of the New World he had added to civilization, and had hoisted his sails for Spain. Passing the Cayman islands, which he named Las Tortugas, 180 miles off Jamaica, Columbus encountered a great storm. He was forced to run before it. Hoping to find shelter at Jamaica, he finally reached what is now called Dry Harbor. He found no fresh water here, so went on to St. Ann's bay, which he called Puerto Santa Gloria, and there ran his ships on the beach in one of its coves.

Finally the food aboard and that supplemented by the near-by Indians gave out, and after the last ration of biscuit and wine had been issued the admiral's faithful follower, Diego Mendez, started out through the jungle on a trading expedition which netted a scant fare, but enough to keep away starvation, even if not sufficient to appease hunger.

Columbus then called for volunteers to try for Haiti, some 200 miles away, in search of succor. All were silent but the gallant Mendez. He stepped into a small ship's boat and rowed away!

Sickness and Mutiny.

Then sickness and body ills brought despair and mutiny. The brothers Porras (Francisco, captain of the Santiago, and Diego, the accountant) led a revolt in which Juan Sanchez, the pilot Ledesma, barba the gunner, and some fifty others joined.

Though so ill with gout that he could not stand, Columbus endeavored to go out and quell the mutiny, his log tells us. But his adherents begged that the mutineers be permitted to go. They took most of the scanty stores, the ten canoes and started for Haiti; but, cowards that they were, they gave up the trip after forcing the Indians who accompanied them to swim ashore.

A caravel heaves into sight! Is it the long-looked-for relief sent by Mendez? Alas, no! Only a sorry jest by Ovanda, who sent for Escobar in the hope he would find Columbus dead, and, if not, to tell him there were no ships available to carry them to Spain.

Finally, a full year after he had landed there, the eyes of the admiral saw another sight—two caravels, one sent by the faithful Mendez and the other by Ovanda, who had repented his previous sorry attitude.

So it was, on June 23, 1504, after 12 months and 4 days of a wretched, stranded existence at Jamaica, Christopher Columbus sailed home again, never more to look upon the world he had discovered.