

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

VOL. LVI.

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY JANUARY 29, 1931.

NO. 52.

## News Review of Current Events the World Over

Remarkable Report on the Prohibition Problem Made by the Wickersham Commission—J. A. Farrell Says Prosperity Is Coming Back.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

**NEITHER** dry nor wets can derive any whole-hearted satisfaction from the report of the Wickersham law enforcement commission, which was handed to President Hoover and by him transmitted to congress. Nor is it conceivable that the commission itself can have any great pride in the bulky document. The one wholly honest member appears to be Monte Lemann of New Orleans, who refused to sign the majority report. The other ten attached their names to it and gave out statements showing that no one of them agreed with its findings in their entirety.

This majority report is against repeal of the Eighteenth amendment, and, admitting that prohibition has not been enforced or observed, recommends that it be given further trial, with an enlarged force of agents. Removal of the restrictions on the prescription of medicinal liquor by physicians is advised. If the dry amendment is to be revised at all, the commission is agreed on certain phraseology which would empower congress to deal with the liquor traffic as it sees fit. Modification of the Volstead act so as to permit the manufacture and sale of light wines and beer is opposed.

In a separate report the plan for revision giving congress the power to regulate or prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor was set forth in detail by Henry W. Anderson of Virginia, and it was signed by Commissioners Anderson, Kenyon, Loesch, Pound, McCormick and Mackintosh. Statements of the individual commissioners appended to the general report showed that of the eleven members, six consider it hopeless to expect that prohibition can be made to prohibit. Two of these six—former Secretary of War Newton D. Baker of Ohio and Prof. Monte M. Lemann of Tulane university, La.—advocate repeal of the Eighteenth amendment. The other four of these six—Mr. Anderson, Ada L. Comstock, president of Radcliffe college; Frank J. Loesch of Chicago, and Dean Roscoe Pound of Harvard law school—favor immediate revision of the Eighteenth amendment to confer the power of regulation on congress.

Five of the members—Chairman George W. Wickersham, United States Judges William S. Kenyon, Paul J. McCormick and William L. Grubb, and former Chief Justice K. M. Mackintosh of the Washington Supreme court—stood out for a further trial. Judges Kenyon, Mackintosh and McCormick said that if the further experiment failed they would favor adoption of the Anderson plan of national regulation of liquor.

In transmitting the report to congress, President Hoover said he was in accord with its stand against repeal of the dry amendment, and added: "I do, however, see serious objections to, and therefore must not be understood as recommending the commission's proposed revision of the Eighteenth amendment which is suggested by them for possible consideration at some future time if the continued effort at enforcement should not prove successful."

Senator John J. Blaine of Wisconsin was quick to introduce a modification amendment on the general lines of the plan offered by Commissioner Anderson but confining congressional power to regulation of liquor traffic. Like the Anderson scheme, it would permit each state to decide whether it desires prohibition or a government-controlled liquor supply.

**STANDING** by his conviction that the funds of the Red Cross should be obtained by private subscription, President Hoover has named a committee of leading citizens to push the drive for \$10,000,000 for the relief of the drought sufferers. Calvin Coolidge, his predecessor, has accepted the honorary chairmanship of this body, and Al Smith, his opponent in 1928, is a vice president, as are

John W. Davis, Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1924; Gen. John J. Pershing, and Abel Davis of Chicago. John Barton Payne, head of the Red Cross, is the active chairman of the committee.

In a letter to those invited to serve on the committee the President said that "it is essential that we should maintain the sound American tradition and spirit of voluntary aid in such emergency and should not undermine that spirit which has made our Red Cross the outstanding guardian of our people in time of disaster. . . . The American way of meeting such a relief problem has been through voluntary effort and for many years this effort has been centered in the American Red Cross, created by the people themselves to act in just such emergencies."



J. A. Farrell

**BUSINESS** in the United States is now on the upgrade, the peak of the financial depression was passed before the beginning of the year, and the prospects for a reformed industrial prosperity are good. Such, at least, is the opinion of James A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel corporation as expressed in an address to the National Canners and the National Wholesale Grocers associations in joint convention in Chicago. He deprecated the suggestions of revision of inter-allied war debts as a measure of relief, and urged that we do the things that we can. "Let us cut down the volume of undigested talk that rarely helps but always hampers," he said.

Granting that unemployment is considerable and that the national income has been reduced, the steel magnate contended it was essential for prosperity to maintain the purchasing power of the working classes, adding: "It is my deliberate judgment that a general reduction of wages in this country would set back the impending recovery by at least two years."

The agricultural situation Mr. Farrell described as a most serious one. But, he said, no lasting gain will be made for agriculture by resort to "quack nostrums and unsound economics."

**PRICES** of bread, sugar and other foodstuffs are being investigated, on order of the senate, by an agricultural subcommittee of which Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas is chairman. Senators Wagner of New York and Brookhart of Iowa, who were the authors of the resolution calling for the inquiry, first appeared before the committee and explained their views and their reasons for thinking current prices to be excessive.

Afterwards representatives of the big bread baking companies and other tradesmen were called in to tell the facts as they see them and to justify, if they could, the maintenance of present prices of bread in view of the low price of wheat.

**OBSTRUCTIONIST** tactics in the senate delayed the Interior department bill, to which had been appended the \$25,000,000 appropriation for the Red Cross for food but the measure was passed. The senate also had further relief plans. The agriculture committee approved a measure to donate 20,000,000 bushels of farm board wheat to feed the hungry, the cost of the grain to be credited to the board's revolving fund; and the appropriation committee added to a pending deficiency bill \$20,000,000 for immediate public improvements.

Wet members of the house engaged in a filibuster against prohibition enforcement appropriations, attacking especially funds for employment of informers, for purchase of liquor evidence and for tapping the telephone wires of suspected law violators.

**ELIHU ROOT** appeared before the senate foreign relations committee and eloquently defended the protocols for American adherence to the World court which he negotiated. His arguments were forcible and his replies to questions seemed adequate, but his address did not appear to have much effect on Senators Borah, Moses and Johnson, members of the committee and opponents of adherence even with the senate's reservations.

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**KEEP** away from Las Vegas, is the warning to jobless workers who seek employment on the Boulder dam project given out by Labor, the official organ of railroad labor organizations. The paper says:

"Despite the fact that contracts on the \$165,000,000 government project have not been awarded, Las Vegas has been flooded with thousands of jobless and destitute men. Hundreds of these unfortunate job seekers were deceived by rosy reports circulated by unscrupulous employment agencies. In the opinion of Francis I. Jones, general director of the United States employment service.

"Capt. Robert M. Griffin of the Salvation army at Las Vegas recently declared that Las Vegas has the longest bread line in the United States, according to population. More than 7,000 jobless workers were given aid by the Salvation army in one month, Captain Griffin reports."



Admiral Mark Bristol

**PACIFISTS** and advocates of adequate national defense came together in Washington in the sixth national conference on the cause and cure of war. The big meeting was attended by more than 100 delegates from 44 states, and was held under the auspices of 11 national women's organizations whose aim in this respect is to complete the demobilization of what they call "the war machine." One of the speakers on the program was Rear Admiral Mark Bristol, chairman of the executive committee of the navy general board; and his arguments for defense were ably seconded by Admiral William V. Pratt, chief of naval operations and Edward P. Warner, former assistant secretary of the navy in charge of aeronautics. Among the pacifist speakers were Miss Jane Addams of the International League for Peace and Freedom, and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

**DISPATCHES** from Geneva say that the central plenum board of the League of Nations was compelled, by objections from representatives of France and Yugoslavia, to delete from its report caustic criticism of the "abnormal" narcotics consumption in Japan and France, the inference being that drugs supposedly for medical purposes had escaped from regular channels and been made available to the illicit dope dealers. The expurgated report read to the league council merely mentioned "certain countries," but at the same time unfolded to the council the fact that seizures of opium illicitly transported were now in tons where heretofore they had been in junces.

The league commission to study Briand's United States of Europe scheme decided, after a warm debate, to invite Russia, Turkey and Iceland to participate in the discussions of the economic phases of the plan when it is taken up again probably next May.

**PAUL VON HINDENBURG**, president of the German republic, was the chief figure in the enthusiastic celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of German unity; and the eighty-three-year-old warrior seemed almost as vigorous as he must have been on January 18, 1871, when as a lieutenant he stood in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles and heard Bismarck proclaim the federated state of Germany an empire.

The ceremonies in Berlin opened with a solemn assembly of all members of the government in the reichstag where Chancellor Brüning made an appeal for mutual understanding and repeated Bismarck's pledge that the nation would seek wealth through peace, not war. Then President von Hindenburg attended a reunion in the Berlin Sportplatz where about 12,000 former officers and soldiers gathered.

**HAVING** adopted a skeletonized plan for giving India dominion status, the round table conference in London adjourned with most of the delegates satisfied. However, the Gandhi adherents in India are not at all pleased with the scheme and immediately began attacking it in various ways. National congress newspapers denounce it as a system of camouflage designed to provide safeguards for Great Britain.

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THE LITTLE BOY

"In yonder house," commenced Mr. Sun, nodding his head in a certain direction, so the sun in that direction seemed to be growing warmer, "in that house," he repeated, "there lives a little boy."

"Well," said the Sun Rays, "there is nothing so very astonishing in that, is there?"

"There are so many little boys in many houses, and they aren't considered so very unusual—that is, there are lots of them!"

In Yonder House. "Oh, no," said the Sun, "but I really have something quite fine to tell you."

"For over two weeks that little boy has followed me around," the Sun said.

"What! Whatever do you mean?" asked the Sun Rays.

"He has been ill. He has had a very, very, bad cold. Oh, he has been quite wretched and he has not felt like doing anything."

"A little boy is pretty ill when he doesn't feel like doing anything and wants to stay quiet."

"That's true," said the Sun Rays. How often they had seen small boys scampering and playing, and sometimes they had danced, too, for joy. Yes, it was true, a little boy felt pretty ill when he did not feel like doing anything.

"The doctor comes every day," continued the Sun. "Sometimes he comes twice a day, and once he came three times."

"But every time he comes he tells the little boy always to sit in the sun."

"And he has been following me around. When I am shining into one window in the morning, there I see the little boy sitting by the window. In the afternoon when I choose an entirely different part of the house for shining in the windows, there is the little boy again."

"And for two weeks he has been doing this. Just following me around? 'I do feel so honored! And you, my good Sun Ray children, you should feel honored, too.'"

"We do," said the Sun Rays.

"Listen now!" said the Sun. And they all stopped talking to listen.

There was the little boy sitting by the window, and by him stood his mother and a big man with a low voice.

The man was carrying a little black satchel and he was talking.

"Well, how are you today, my boy?" he asked.

"Oh, much stronger and better," said the boy. "I almost feel like going out again."

"You'll be able to now in a very few days," the doctor said.

"Oh, doctor," said the mother, "you have saved my little boy's life."

"He was so ill, but he is really getting well now."

The doctor shook his head.

"I wasn't the one who saved him," the doctor answered. "It was the Sun."

And the Sun beamed and shone more than ever, and the Sun Rays danced for joy, great joy.

How happy they all were.

### RIDDLES

Have you ever tried making up riddles of your own? They aren't easy, but sometimes boys and girls think of some good ones. Try it some time when your brain is working exceptionally well.

1. When did Washington first take a carriage? . . .
2. Why is a rich farmer like a man with bad teeth? . . .
3. Why is a child with a cold in its head like a February blizzard? . . .
4. Why is a college student like a thermometer? . . .
5. When a young man calls upon his sweetheart what should he carry with him?

## Palace to Be the American Embassy in Berlin



View of Blucher palace in Berlin, which will be occupied shortly by the American embassy.

## Charge Murders To Kid Bandits

### Kansas City Police Round Up Gang of Fiendish Youngsters.

Kansas City, Mo.—An underworld of youngsters, callow boys and flighty girls of from fourteen to nineteen years old, in the Rosedale district, Kansas City, Kan., furnished the latest amazing segment of a murder trail first scented by the police six weeks ago.

This trail has included perhaps six murders. Five boys have been sentenced to the reformatory. Another boy member was killed accidentally. The seventeen-year-old leader now admits a Kansas murder and is accused with a boy partner of the William H. Price murder here. Two fourteen-year-old girls were arrested with this pair. Then another boy and three other girls were arrested in Rosedale, and still another boy was sought as members of the gang or as acquaintances of members of the gang.

### Parents Pray for Leader.

The leader, Everett Haldiman, has parents and a sister who tell of having prayed for his Christian conversion. Haldiman and Willis Harley, both seventeen years old, admit the murder of a filling station operator at Tyro, Kan., early in December, and are in jail at Independence, Kan., under this charge. They are accused by Fern McNabb, fourteen-year-old Kansas City (Kan.) girl associate, as the murderers here November 26 of Price, a bakery wagon driver.

A second girl, Aletha Rush, fifteen, Sioux City, Iowa, was arrested with Haldiman and Harley.

The wonder is that this child underworld has resisted arrest so long. Accident and coincidence helped the police. Except when hopelessly surrounded with evidence and under arrest, none of the scattered members has talked. Even after the police had the names of the gang, they sought furtively for weeks to find them or link them with contemporary crime.

### Accused of Other Murders.

Some of the other murders for which suspicion points to the gang, according to B. H. Thurman, chief of detectives, are the slaying May 10 of Irving Mallin, fruit store operator; Vincent Weber, deaf mute, slain August 15, and John E. Ramsden, slain August 18.

It has been difficult to trace the perpetrators of these murders, because few witnesses could agree as to their description. Now the police know Haldiman and his associates used make-up and cork to change their appearance. The Mallin murderer looked like a negro to one witness, but another was certain the slayer had a white man's hair. The Weber slayer

looked both young or old to different witnesses; something about his face defied description. The police now believe the slayer was made up. One man has been tried and acquitted in this case, the identifications not being accepted by the jury.

It is quite plain that the victims have been slain because they thought their assailant was bluffing them; he was young and harmless looking. Yet he shot at the first sign of resistance, and he shot straight. That picture fits Haldiman.

Fear of the rope in Missouri is all that led Haldiman to admit the Tyro crime, Chief Thurman says.

### R. R. Battles State for Oil Drilling Rights

Austin, Texas.—How far down the right of way or a railroad extends is the problem put up to Texas courts in a suit filed here by the state against the Texas and Pacific railway. The road is sinking oil wells on the right of way, proposing to use the oil for fuel. Attorney General R. L. Bobbitt contends that the minerals under the surface belong to the state.

The suit involves the rights in a tract 200 feet wide and ten miles long in Ward county. The railroad was granted this 200 feet 50 years ago. Discovery of oil nearby has brought it into controversy.

Texas was seeking railroads a half century ago. A law was passed giving railroads a 200-foot right of way and the right to use "any earth, timber, stone, or other material upon any such land necessary to the construction and operation of its railroad through or over the land."

The railroad claims that taking oil from the right of way and using it in operating the road is within the terms of the grant.

### Motorist Receives His Dollar Fine Back

Goshen, N. Y.—The dollar fine which was levied on Joseph Gibbons in City court was returned to him when County Court Judge Russell Wiggins reversed the decision.

Gibbons was charged with passing a stop sign at a street intersection.

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### Camel Bones Found in Nevada Gravel

Lovelock, Nev.—The bones of ancient camels have been discovered in Perth gravel pit, four miles west of here.

Bones found by local residents were submitted to Dr. R. A. Stirton, paleontologist of the University of California, who reported, "Your specimen, which was received a few days ago, represents the sacral vertebrae of an artiodactyl and referable to the camelidae," which means they are camel bones.

### Padded Spurs Used in Cock Fight in Tulsa

Tulsa, Okla.—The latest innovation in sporting circles here is the "padded spur cock fight." To aid unemployed of the city a veterans' organization staged a series of cock fights recently. The spurs were sheathed in tiny "boxing gloves." A number of prize cocks from Spain, South America and the British West Indies were brought to Tulsa for the events. The show was conducted along the lines of a boxing exhibition.

## Culbertson, National Auction Champion



Ely Culbertson has just won the Vanderbilt national championship trophy at auction, and holds the amazing record of winning all major events of the year in America and England. He is shown here with his trophy.

### 50 Doctors See Glass Taken From Body

New Orleans.—A remarkable operation was revealed here when Dr. D. L. Watson admitted that he removed from the stomach of Dorothy Wahl, nineteen, of Key West, Fla., a piece of glass two and one-half inches long which had been in her body for 11 years.

Fifty doctors witnessed the operation.