

1-Members of Gen. Feng Yu-Hslang's Christian army of China singing their morning hymns. 2-Admiral Robert Coontz taking command of the Pacific fleet. 3-Dr. Gustave Stresemann, new German chancellor.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Crisis in Anglo-French Relations May Result in Clearing Up the Muddle.

GERMANY'S NEW GOVERNMENT

Stresemann Likely to Negotiate With France-President Coolidge's Policles Made Clearer - Anthracite Coal Strike Is Not Yet Averted -Recognition of Mexico Is Near.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

UT of the "foul welter of controversies" in Europe it appears now that some practical method of settling the problems may arise soon. England has spoken to France with direceness and harshness that France is r avely offended, and the correspondents once more announce that the entente is ruptured. German Socialists have overthrown the Cuno government, and Gustave Stresemann has formed a new ministry. Communists have promoted bloody riots and strikes in a score of German cities. Belgium supports France more firmly than of late. Italy awaits further developments. America reiterates her intention of not assuming an active role in the crisis.

All that looks black enough, but this may be the darkest hour just preceding the dawn. As the angry statesmen cool down, they begin to intimate that a basis of understanding may be found between England and France. Failing this, it is likely France and Germany will undertake to reach an independent agreement, and in that case Great Britain doubtless would carry out her oft repeated threat of making a separate settlement with the Germans.

Chancellor Stresemann's ministry, the first coalition majority government in the history of Germany, is the most promising yet formed and it has been given a strong vote of confidence by the reichstag. With the loyal support of the army it has succeeded in squelching the attempted revolution of Communists except in Brunswick. Adopting the financial program prepared by the late Cuno government, it is about to put the country on a gold basis by means of a huge gold loan and a plan of taxation that will compel industrial magnates to pay up.

IN HIS first address to the reichstag Chancellor Stresemann said Germany must still insist on complete restoration of her rights in the occupied territory and the release of Germans imprisoned there by the French and Belgians, as a condition for cessation of passive resistance, but it appeared his attitude was slightly more conciliatory than that which Cuno had assumed, and from which he was unable to recede. In Berlin it is understood the government is considering a proposal to France for a debt agreement similar to that between the United States and Great Britain, one of the main points being that Germany shall assume France's debt to the United States. As a preliminary Germany would first send a joint note to France, Great Britain and America admitting that previous efforts to meet reparations payments have not been sufficiently strong, and that the government is willing to go much further, both in the amount and in the guaran-

Arbold Rechberg, an industrialist leader, offers a plan for French participation in German industry which is being favorably discussed. He says its acceptance depends largely on the question of percentage of French participation. Germany offers 30 per cent in new stocks, and France demands 51 per cent.

"France cannot leave the Ruhr without showing to its people that it got | mitted by Secretary of Labor Davis. | flesh, was becoming altogether too acsomething," said Herr Rechberg, "and Mr. Coolidge sees no need now for an tive in the campaign for the election with stocks showing a large participation in German industry, it would achieve its purpose. Likewise Germany and France can co-operate industrially successfully to the advantage of both."

ACKING at this writing an official statement of France's intentions, one can make a close guess by reading the inspired articles in the semiofficial newspapers of Paris. These are thus summarized by a correspond-

"First, the French openly flirt with Germany toward direct negotiations for a solution of the reparations question, with the exclusion of Great Britain or any other troublesome power.

Second, the French tell the British -and the Americans, too-in so many words, that the only time they will pay their war debts due is after Germany pays for the reconstruction of the war devastations and pays in addition the amounts due from France to London and Washington. Third, repulsing the Curzon sugges-

tion to refer the Ruhr occupation to the world court, the French intimate that they might ask The Hague to decide whether the Versailles treaty provides that all reparations must be paid before the interallied debts are recovered and whether President Wilson's 14 points provide that the allies' pensions are among the obligations which Germany must assume.

If all conciliatory plans fail, Premier Poincare will continue the occupation of the Ruhr with increased vigor and if necessary will seize the valley of the Main with Frankfort and other cities in that rich region. This would practically cut Germany

COREIGN MINISTER CURZON'S note to France and Belgium, which possibly brought the Franco-British entente to an end, said Great Britain was tired of diplomatic exchanges and wanted immediate action; that she believed the occupation of the Ruhr to be illegal and would submit that question to the world court; and that France must repay to Great Britain enough of the money lent her to enable Britain, with what she may receive from Germany, to pay her debt to the United States. The note concluded with a definite threat to take action for a separate settlement with Germany.

France is insulted by Curzon's clauses on the interallied debts, asserting that she never had the slightest intention of repudiating her debts to England and America. She points out that the Ruhr occupation was first suggested by England less than two years ago, was justified by Sir Robert Horne in the house of commons October 29, 1920, and was authorized by the reparations commission by a vote of three to one.

Regarding the allies' debts, the Journal des Debats points out that Great Britain wants only 14,000,000,-000 gold marks (\$3,500,000,000) to pay the United States, and as she is entitled to 22 per cent of the 50,000,-000,000 gold marks (\$12,500,000,000) A and B series bonds, this leaves a balance of only 3,000,000,000 gold marks (\$750,000,000), "and there is certainly some means to arrange that, about which we can talk later."

DRESIDENT COOLIDGE and his cabinet met Tuesday and discussed many of the important questions confronting them. It was then announced from the White House again that the President's policies would be the same as those of President Harding, and his views on various questions were given in more detail. Summarizing some of these, it is stated that the administration stands ready to co-operate with Europe in working out a solution of the reparations question, if it can do so without involving the United States, but it has no concrete proposal to make at this time; that it will proceed with efforts to collect the debts owed America by foreign governments; that the President and secretary of agriculture are sympathetically studying many suggestions for legislation to help the farmer; that the determination of the administration to enforce strictest economy cannot be stated too strongly and the budget system will be scrupulously followed; that the President favors the policy of admitting only the better class of immigrants and will study plans subextra session of congress.

parent shyness of President Coolidge, probably will be kept in jail in Dublin and Washington officialdom is pleased until the courtry is more peaceful.

with the vigorous way in which he is tackling his tasks. Politicians give him first place in the list of aspirants for the Republican presidential nomination next year. Last week he held \$33,319,127, the statement is made in conferences with a number of Republican leaders from Southern states, and there were signs that the Southern delegate support was drifting his accredited as the chief source of fire. way. In line with this was Mr. Coolidge's appointment of C. Bascom Insurance Commissioner's report of Slemp as secretary to the President. the towns and cities suffering the Mr. Slemp was formerly a congressman from Virginia and has long been one of the most important Republicans of the South. The Democratic national committee promptly characterized the appointment as "the first step to round up Southern delegates" for Coolidge, and then went on to attack Slemp, asserting that he was 'exposed on the floor of the house December 15, 1922, in connection with the alleged trafficking in offices by Republicans in Southern states."

E FFORTS of the administration to prevent the suspension of anthracite coal mining after September 1 have not yet met with success. With the approval of President Coolidge. the federal coal commission headed by John Hays Hammond invited the representatives of the operators and miners to meet it in conference in New York city. Accordingly the sub-scale committee, four men from each side, joined the board members in discussing the questions at issue. The miners proposed to abandon their demand for the "check-off" of union dues if the operators would cease their practice of collecting explosive and fuel accounts by the same method. To this the operators agreed, but with conditions at which the miners balked. Mr. Hammond said "frankly, the outlook is discouraging."

Meanwhile other government departments are preparing for a possible strike.

TOHN BARTON PAYNE and Charles B. Warren, representatives of the United States in the prerecognition conference in Mexico City, have concluded their task satisfactorily and by this time are back in Washington with the signed records of the sessions. These comprise the two claims conventions and the Mexican government's interpretation of the bearing of the subsoil petroleum and agrarian laws on American property in Mexico. It is believed the agreements reached by Payne and Warren with the Mexican representatives will be acceptable to the American administration and that the resumption of diplomatic relations will soon follow. An agreement was made to have the president of the permanent court of international justice at The Hague appoint neutral umpires for the United States and Mexican claims commissions, which are to be created through the revolutionary and mixed claims conventions, if and after diplomatic relations are resumed.

THE gasoline price war which Govarnor McMaster started in South Dakota where the state placed the fuel on sale at 16 cents began to spread to other states in the Middle West and resulted in the Standard Oil company of Indiana meeting the cut, though it protested that the price was below the cost of producand the consumers were comparatively happy. In a few days Governor McMaster, after conferring with independent oil jobbers, raised the price in South Dakota to 20 cents, "so the relative reduction as in other states." The war is still going on, and it may be the federal government will take a hand.

O NE hundred and thirty-eight men were entombed in a coal mine at Kemmerer, Wyo., by an explosion about 1,700 feet below the surface, and despite the frantic efforts of rescue workers 98 of them perished.

TAMON DE VALERA, the Irish L Free State's chief thorn-in-thesoon to be held, so government troops grabbed him while he was addressing CONFIDENCE and decision have a big meeting of republicans at Ennis, county Clare, and locked him up. He

STATE'S LOSS BY FIRE \$33,319,127

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIA-TIONS HELP BUILD 5,000 HOMES DURING YEAR.

REPORT OF STAGY W. WADE

New Bern, in Which Great Disaster Occurred, Leads State in Yearly Report

Raleigh.

Losses by fire in North Carolina during the year ending April 1, 1923, totalled \$33,319,127; according to the annual report of Stacey W. Wade, state insurance commissioner. Reporting on Building and Loan association activities in the state during the same period, the Insurance Commissioner stated in his report that more than 5,000 homes, representing an in vestment of more than \$15,000,000 were built through these agencies.

Compared with the total fire loss of Mr. Wade's report that this loss was covered by \$19,257,000 insurance. Defective flues and shingle roofs are

New Bern heads the list in the greatest fire losses, with Charlotte second. The loss caused by the New Bern conflagration December 1, 1923, is listed as \$2,500,000. Charlotte's loss for the entire year is estimated at \$485,877.

The "appointment of an official whose sole duty shall be te supervision" of the Building and Loan associations of the state is recommended to the Governor in the Insurance Commissioner's report on account of the increased activities of these organiza-

The Department of Insurance collected \$861,063.31 in licenses and fees during the year, the report stated.

Let More Road Work August 29.

Sixty, nine miles of hard surface construction included in thirteen projects will be offered contractors in a ers are generally optimistic about the letting announced by the State High- outlook. Certainly North Carolina is way Commission for Wednesday, one of the most favored states in the August 29. With the exception of four smaller projects, calling for grading tions are concerned. This, however, and bridges, every project in the list does not assure returns on their prosis for hard surfaced construction. Greenville and Washington draw

the largest mileage of any project with 14 miles of paving to connect the two towns. The Wilmington-Charlotte-Asheville highway will draw three paving projects, Monroe to Polkton, Laurinburg to Hamlet and Wilmington to Leland. The Central Highway has only one project in the list, a short link between Asheville and Waynesville.

Continuation of the paving between Raleigh and the Virginia State lines provided for in the proposal to grade out the right of way and build needed bridges between the Wake county line and Franklinton. As soon as this work is completed and the roadbed settled, bids will be asked on paving. The road is already under construction between Raleigh and the Franklin county line. .

Material and labor conditions, while by no means back to normal, are somewhat improved over conditions that necessitated the supension of much work in the early summer.

Bumper Crop of Hay. "Last year was a bumper crop for

hay, especially in the coastal belt counties," it was declared in a statement issued by the state-federal department of agriculture crop reporting service. "Many crops were cut for hay that were intended for other purposes, which in many cases was made necessary on account of excessive "The average condition of hay for

August 1 was 80 per cent, with the best condition being found in the mountain and central coastal counties. Wild or meadow hay is found almost exclusively in the mountain counties where livestock is developed to a considerable degree.

"It is reported that the hay crop for the United States, averages 81 tion. Other concerns followed suit per cent, forecasting a production of 81,336,000 tons which averaged slightly over four-fifths of a ton to the acre. Wild hay averages 84 per cent with a slightly higher yield, than the tame varieties. The average price at prevailing price would have the same this season is tame, \$12.46, and wild. \$1.00 higher than quoted a year ago. "Pastures averaged 83 per cent in condition, which corresponds identically with the condition of tame hay."

> Dry Agents Have Good July Record. One hundred and six distilleries; 1,115 gallons of spirits; 84,446 gallons of malt liquors and 21 automobiles were captured during July by federal

Arrests totalling 78 were made while 170 prosecutions were recommended. Value of the automobiles seized was stroyed was placed at \$5,898.

North Carolina Fruit Crop Short.

"We have one of the shortest fruit crops in North Carolina that has been experienced in many years," according to announcement by the state-Federal department of agriculture. "Even the sandhill section is greatly behind in this respect. The low forecast of one fourth crop has been reduced to between 1 and 18 per cent, the present expectation being something over 300 cars of peaches.

"The state average, as reported from hundreds of crop reporters all counties, in the state, show 23 per cent. The national crop is reported at 47,300,000 bushels, which is almost 20 per cent less than last year's crop, and approximately 10 per cent below the five year average. The price of \$1.81 is quoted for August average, which is 20 cents above the price of a year ago. The North Carolina crop is very spotted.

"The state apple crop is estimated to average 33 per cent for the agricultural crop and less than that for the commercial growers. There was a rather heavy drop in June, but conditions have been somewhat more favorable during July. The American crop is forecast at 188,000,000 bushels agricultural crop and 32,900,000 barrels for the commercial crop. The average price reported over the country is \$1.31 per bushel for the general run. which is about the same as last year's price.

"Grapes and pears show quite different conditions. Eighty per cent good prospect, while 22 per cent for pears indicates a low production. Other fruit was generally poor over the state. Blackberries showed a condition of 82 per cent. based on Auust 1 conditions.

"Watermelons and cantaloupes average 72 per cent of a full crop prospect for Auust 1, in North Carolina. Tomatoes averaged 80 per cent; cabbage 79 per cent; onions 85 per cent respectively. Sweet potatoes averaged 81 per cent; and late Irish potatoes 77 per cent condition. Most of the early truck crops suffered from either unfavorable spring seasons or the dry summer weather, especially in the piedmont or central counties. "The recent rainfall has been fa-

vorable for most parts of the state, but is getting excessively wet in many of the eastern counties while relieving things considerably in the piedment. Cotton has grown unusually well, but with the weevil in some of the wet weather areas, the fruiting is not as good now as it was. Most of the crops are doing well and the farmunion so far as crop growing condipects, for later conditions may be quite adverse and production in other states may so affect the markets that the farmers will get very poor prices. The tobacco outlook is very good in production and prices. This in a general way, is true of cotton.

Big Crop of Wheat in N. C. Indications are that North Carolina

will produce 6,633,000 bushels of wheat this year, according to a statement issued by Frank Parker, statistician of the State-Federal Department of Agriculture. The quality is unusually good, said Mr. Parker, averaging 92 per cent of what might be expected under extra good conditions.

"It has been seven years since North Carolina had a good wheat crop," stated Mr. Parker, "but she has come to the front this year. From the beginning of a very poor prospect, especially after the Spring freezes, the development has progressively improved. Even at harvest time the expectation was not as good as was realized when threshed.

"This condition is evident from the report of more than eleven bushels per acre and a crop of 94 per cent. It would appear from a yield map of the State that the best yield of more than eleven bushels per acre was made in the main wheat belt and central mountain counties, and high yields were also made in the coast belt.

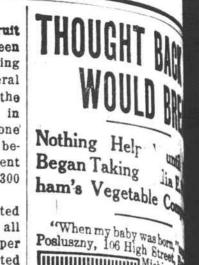
"The poorest conditions were found from Stanley northeastward to Franklin and westward to Rockingham, this being the eastern part of the Piedmont area, where the yields were less than eleven bushels. Franklin, Person, Caswell, Chatham, Moore, Stanley, Surry and Cherokee Counties reported eight bushels or less.

"The American wheat crop shows an average yield of 15.6 bushels per acre forecasting a production of 793,-000,000 bushels. The Winter wheat was better than the Spring sown crop. The average price for August 1 is 84 cents as compared with 97 cents a year ago. The North Carolina crop is forecast at 11 bushels per acre, foreeasting a production of 6,633,000 bush-\$9.17 per ton. These prices are about els, with the price averaging about 1.20. The quality is unusually good, averaging 92 per cent of what might be expected under extra good condi-

Cotton Damaged By Red Spider.

Numerous complaints of damage to cotton by the red spider have been received from Wilson, Bertie, Halifax and Warren counties, according to prohibition agents operating in North | Franklin Sherman, chief in entomology for the state.

"There were a few complaints late June and early July but many reports of damage have been received estimated at \$5,825, while the total since mid-July," Mr. Sherman stated. appraised value of property seized and "The area affected extends from Faydestroyed amounted to \$35,975.50. The etteville to the northeastward with value of property seized and not de- the greatest damage in the counties mentioned."



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