

1—Funeral procession of Cardinal Mercier in Brussels. 2—Big and small vessels working their way through the ice in New York harbor during the frigid spell. 3—Model of Bjorkman's monument to Leif Ericson, the Norse discoverer of North America, which will be erected in Brooklyn, with a replica in Chicago.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Mussolini Threatens Germany and Defies League in South Tyrol Affair.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ITALY, as represented by Premier Mussolini, and Germany, through Foreign Minister Stresemann and the reichstag, said a lot of nasty things about each other last week and the alarmists would like to have it appear that peace was threatened. But hostilities, at least for a long time, are quite out of the question. The row, of course, is over the treatment of the German minority in southern Tyrol, the recovered territory which Mussolini insists must be Italianized. In a speech to parliament Mussolini said: "Italy can, if necessary, carry its tricolor beyond the frontier (the Brenner pass), but never will lower it." He declared the policy in the Tyrol would never be changed but would be carried out "obstinately, methodically and precisely." And he added: "If the Germans attempt a boycott, we will answer with boycotts squared. If Germany takes reprisals, we will answer with reprisals cubed."

Germany's formal answer was a declaration adopted by the reichstag that it "vigorously rejects the Italian prime minister's objectively unjustifiable and insultingly phrased attacks and sneers," and reasserting right to support the demand of the German minorities under foreign sovereignty for just treatment. Doctor Stresemann stigmatized Mussolini's address as "soap-box speechifying" and asserted the Italian government had broken its promises to safeguard local traditions in southern Tyrol. He more than intimated that Germany would lay the matter before the League of Nations.

Mussolini's reply was immediate and sharp. He told the League of Nations to keep its hands off. He made these three points:

1. That the non-Italian population of south Tyrol are outside of those minorities which became objects of special accord in the peace treaties.
2. That Italy will not accept any discussion of this matter by any assembly or council.
3. That the Fascist government will oppose with maximum energy any plan of this nature, because it would feel itself guilty of a real crime toward the fatherland if, for 100,000 Germans, the peace and security of 42,000,000 Italians, who surely form the most homogeneous and compact national bloc in Europe, should in any way be compromised.

"These," declared Premier Mussolini, "are not menaces for which any ambiguous dilemma is valid. They are an affirmation of dignity and force."

Berlin officially considered the incident closed until it should be taken up by the league. Meanwhile the Italian authorities in southern Tyrol said they had uncovered a plot by Bavarians to revolt against Italy, and raids were made near Lavarone in which 50 persons were arrested and quantities of arms and ammunition were seized.

GERMANY'S petition for entry into the League of Nations was received Thursday by Secretary General Sir Eric Drummond. The council was called together at once and arrangements made for a session of the assembly to receive the new member.

WITH the unexpected aid of 16 Republican votes, the senate not only voted to repeal the inheritance tax but added \$100,000,000 to its committee's cut of \$352,000,000 in the government revenues. Taxes on automobiles and trucks, admissions and dues were wiped out. At this writing it is believed the bill will be passed by the senate before the week ends. It is not considered likely that the inheritance tax repeal will stand in conference. More probably the house provisions reducing the rates from a maximum of 40 to 20 per cent will be

restored. Other slashes made by the senate may be abandoned in the conference, for the reductions are far below the margin of safety set by the treasury officials.

Chairman Smoot told the senate its action in repealing the automobile passenger-car levy, involving a loss of \$70,000,000 in revenue, "will ruin the bill," while Senator Couzens (Rep., Mich.) countered with the charge that it was "a damnable outrage if you take the taxes off dead millionaires and not relieve these burdensome levies."

SECRETARY OF WAR DAVIS suspects that officers of the army air service are using disloyal means in their fight for the creation of a separate air corps, and he has ordered two separate inquiries, one by Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick, chief of the air service, and the other by Maj. Gen. Ell A. Helmick, the inspector general. It is charged that officers of the air service have been preparing and circulating letters asking all officers to "get busy and fight now for a separate air service" and to appeal to their congressmen to vote for the Wainwright bill. Action on the part of an army officer to influence legislation by clandestine means is expressly forbidden under general order 25. It is asserted by some that General Patrick himself will be involved in the inquiry because of his recent testimony before the house military affairs committee in favor of the Wainwright bill, and that committee inquired into the purposes of the investigation and the possibility that it would result in gagging army witnesses called by congressional committees.

Secretary Davis formally denounced the separate service plan, and also issued a bulletin telling his conception of the duties of the air service. "The mission of the air service is to assist the ground forces to gain strategic and tactical successes by destroying enemy aviation, attacking enemy ground forces, and other enemy objectives on land or sea, and, in conjunction with other agencies, to protect ground forces from hostile aerial observation and attack," the bulletin stated. "In addition, it furnishes aerial observation for information and for artillery fire, and also provides messenger service and transportation for special personnel."

WHILE there has been no doubt concerning the attitude of the Roman Catholic church toward compulsory prohibition, that attitude was formally stated for the first time last week by William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, the church's ranking prelate in the United States. He declares the Catholic church applauds voluntary total abstinence and needs no persuasion to fight against intemperance, but that "compulsory prohibition in general is flatly opposed to Holy Scripture and to Catholic tradition."

Ale, wine and their like, the cardinal holds, are not in themselves evil. He stresses the fact that they have their lawful uses, "ranging from the supreme honor paid to wine, along with bread as the matter of the holy eucharist, to their original work of moistening and enlivening the laborer's rough fare."

"It has been made clear a thousand times," he adds, "that we will work with our separated brethren as temperance men, but not as the tools of those whose confessed policy is world-wide prohibition by instalments."

Cardinal O'Connell called attention to what he called an attempt by prohibitionists "to entrap the pope by begging him to give his moral support to secure the observance of the law of prohibition," and added that the ruse had failed badly.

Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago declined to discuss prohibition, holding that it is a purely political issue. He added: "I have always found that when the American people wanted something hard enough they were usually successful in getting it in the end. If the American people do not want prohibition or want it in a modified form, there is a congress as their servant, and if this congress will not do their bidding, let them get another congress that will."

FORMATION of the new \$2,000,000,000 Ward Food Products corpora-

tion, which is called by some the "baking trust," was attacked by the government in a suit charging violation of the Sherman anti-trust law and the Clayton act. In taking this step the administration believes it has nipped in the bud a scheme to form a gigantic bread monopoly comprising substantially all the wholesale bakeries in the United States. The suit seeks not only the dissolution of such combinations as already have been effected by the baking corporations involved but the consummation of the main merger, recently incorporated by William B. Ward, the bakery millionaire.

Ward and his associates call the merger the "corporation with a soul" because of its plans for community enterprises and for the gift of one-tenth of its profits to charity.

IT APPEARS probable, at the time of writing, that a settlement of the long anthracite coal strike is at hand. A tentative arrangement was reached by leaders of both sides and the miners' full scale committee was called to Philadelphia to ratify it. The joint negotiating committee of twelve was then to meet and make it public.

It was stated unofficially in Wilkes-Barre that the arrangement was substantially as follows:

First, that President Coolidge be invited to mediate the differences between the miners and operators.

Second, that pending the mediation by the President the miners shall return to work; or, under certain conditions, remain on suspension until the decision is made known.

Third, that in the event the mediation decision is unsatisfactory President Coolidge shall be asked to sit as a judge and make a decision on the question at issue.

This decision to be binding on both sides, with the proviso that either side may appeal on questions of fact within ten days.

GREAT BRITAIN'S coal commission has recommended that the government buy and operate all coal mines, shutting down all those that are not paying a profit and re-employing the workers in profitable pits. It does not advise any reduction of wages or increase of working hours underground.

ANCIENT laws are being invoked in both Tennessee and Massachusetts, and their enforcement may lead to revision of the laws in those states. In Tennessee it is the "blue Sunday" law which has been resurrected. It prohibits all work except "acts of real necessity or charity" on Sunday, and it has been invoked especially to close gasoline filling stations on that day. Its general enforcement would stir up things a bit.

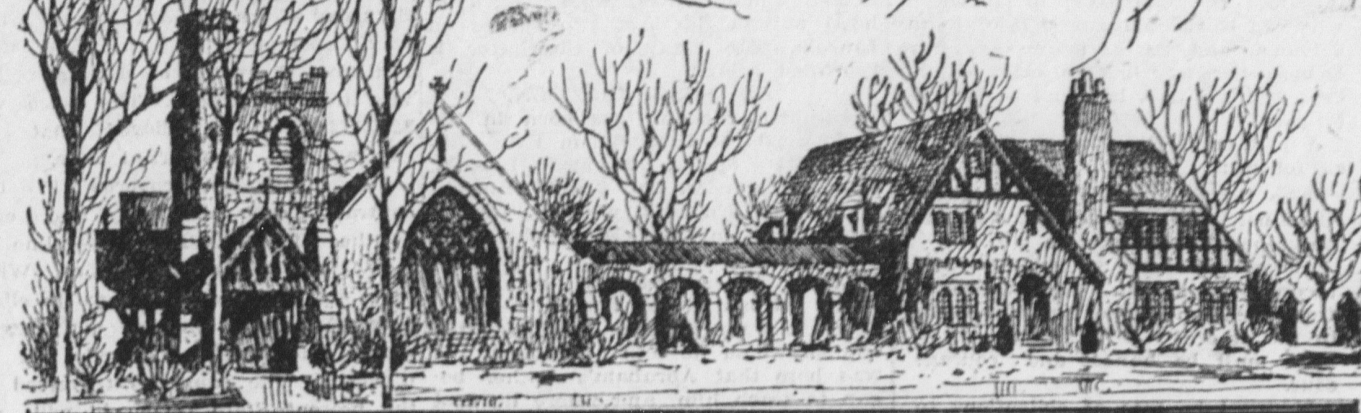
In Brocton, Mass., Anthony Bimba, a Lithuanian and the editor of a Communist paper, is about to be put on trial for "wittily blaspheming the holy name of God by denying and contemptuously reproaching God." The blasphemous statute has been on the statute books for 229 years and none of the present generation of local lawmakers or defenders of law breakers remembers of its having been invoked previously. Bimba is also accused of "inciting the overthrow of the constituted government of the commonwealth of Massachusetts." The joint committee on rules of the Massachusetts legislature has reported favorably on a motion to establish a special commission to study obsolete laws of the state and recommend their repeal.

COMMANDER FRANCO, the Spaniard, "Columbus of the air," with his three comrades successfully completed the flight from Spain to Buenos Aires and was given a tremendously enthusiastic welcome to the Argentine capital. The distance covered by the plane was 6,232 miles and the flying time was only 62 hours and 52 minutes. Each stage of the journey was covered in almost the exact time fixed for the distance.

ITALY has taken a decisive step to suppress the Senussi tribesmen in Cyrenaica, North Africa, a column of troops having taken possession of their headquarters, the oasis and city of Jarabub, which controls the trade routes between central Africa and the coast.



EUGENE FIELD'S TOMB



Children's Beloved Poet Will Sleep in Church's Shadow

By DE WITT J. MASON

WHEN Eugene Field moved, thirty years ago last summer, to his Sabine Farm, in the outskirts of Chicago, he said, "Now that I am here in my own house, I shall do better work than ever before." The beloved children's poet assembled his thousands of books; arranged his treasured collection of antique bottles, old songs, bells, walking sticks and tops; hung on the wall the ax Gladstone had given him; laid out Dana's scissors—and was supremely happy. But he died that fall and was buried in Graceland cemetery, in Chicago.

Now, the Sabine Farm home is to give way to an apartment house; also, Field's remains are to be removed from Graceland cemetery to a specially built memorial tomb in the cloisters of the little ivy-clad Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter at Kenilworth, Ill.

It may be that there have been poets—not necessarily better poets, or more religious ones," writes Robert L. Duffus in the New York Times, "who would feel more at home in the shadow of a cloister than would Eugene Field. Yet the two incidents together have their significance. The Sabine Farm dissolves into the thin substance of dreams; but the memory of Eugene Field has not been corroded by the years."

It may be, however, that those who pass through the Kenilworth cloisters will remember the author of "The Sugar-Plum Tree," and "Wyken, Blyken and Nod," and forget the madcap editor and columnist of the old Denver and Chicago days; the wild humorist who gave utterance to "The Tribune Primer"; the great jester who lived for the purpose of making pose and pretense ridiculous; the relentless satirist.

Eugene Field came of a distinguished family, but not of one given to eccentric genius. His father, as counsel for the runaway negro Dred Scott, made a protest against slavery which for a moment gave him national prominence. His mother, a woman of beauty and charm, died in 1856, when Eugene was only six years old, and he and his brother were brought up by an aunt, Mary Field French, in Amherst, Mass.

At fifteen he went to a school at Monson, Mass., kept by a clergyman and his wife, and at eighteen he entered Williams college. The influences that surrounded him were thus sobering if not absolutely Puritanical.

He left Williams partly because of the death of his father and partly because of the faculty's lack of enthusiasm over the prospect of having him any longer. He had not committed any unpardonable offenses, but he too plainly lacked that respect for office and authority which was deemed essential. Next year he entered Knox college, at Galesburg, Ill., an event chiefly important because during that year he began newspaper work by contributing to the Galesburg Register. He was restless, and in 1870 moved on to the University of Missouri, at Columbia. The most significant thing that happened to him there was his

meeting with the girl of fifteen who was later to become his wife.

"His share of his father's estate was \$8,000. At the end of the year in Columbia, Mo., he shook the dust of higher education forever from his feet and set off with his friend, Edgar Comstock, brother of the young lady with whom he was in love, for a hilarious tour of Europe. From time to time he cabled home for money. When six months had passed and the two adventurers had reached Italy the \$8,000 was all gone.

"I came home broke," he afterward said, "so I got married." Mrs. Field was then sixteen. Their life together was a happy one. She bore him eight children and understood his whimsical variety of humor. She also managed the family finances—a task of which he was constitutionally incapable. Their only clashes came when he was caught trying to smuggle home books when money was needed to pay the grocer.

Field knew that he was not in every respect a model husband, and liked to tell about a conversation he once had in a dream with the patriarch Job.

"It is true," Job was represented as saying, "that for a long time I enjoyed quite a reputation for being very patient, but now I have to take a back seat. You see, there's a woman in Chicago named Mrs. Eugene Field who has proved herself a lot patienter than I."

Field had always wanted to be an actor. He even bought complete sets of costumes for Hamlet, Lear and Othello, and in 1872 actually went out with a company of other reckless youths on a barnstorming tour.

In June, 1873, he went to the St. Louis Evening Journal as a cub reporter, and before the year closed was city editor. Subsequently, he was city editor of the Gazette of St. Joseph, a paragrapher for the Journal and the Times-Journal in St. Louis, managing editor of the Kansas City Times, and then, in 1881, managing editor of the Denver Tribune.

"It was in Denver that he began to acquire more than local fame—not merely as managing editor of a lively paper, but as paragrapher, dramatic critic, and, it is essential to add, practical joker."

"In 1883 he was called to Chicago, at a considerable increase of salary, to write whatever he pleased for the Chicago News."

"He took over a nondescript column called 'Current Gossip,' which blossomed out, on August 31, 1883, as the famous 'Sharps and Flats.'"

"Eugene Field did not talk, as a

rule, in terms of 'Little Boy Blue' or 'The Wanderer.' He saved that side of his nature mostly for pen and paper. Yet it spilled out.

"I always feel like shedding tears," he said to George Millard one Christmas, when I see all those people going home with their little gifts for the babies. I can't help crying. It overwhelms me."

"He did not have to unbind to children. He understood them because he looked at the world through their eyes.

"For him, as for them, it had mystery. 'I believe,' he said, 'in ghosts, in witches and in fairies.' He had the air of a changeling; an air of knowing more than he meant to tell.

"That 'mummer's face,' as a friend called it, hid more than it revealed. He lamented, as newspaper men have done ever since the Acta Diurna of Rome, that his job left him insufficient time and strength. A gaunt, awkward, homely Paggiacci, counted on to make people laugh and cry. Not even his wife knew, perhaps, what he was like when the make-up was off.

"Dana announced a standing offer of double the Chicago salary if Field would come to New York. He preferred to sit in the Record office and let fame find him there, if it so desired.

"A Little Book of Western Verse," containing much of his best work, appeared in 1889, and in a popular edition in 1890; so did 'A Little Book of Profitable Tales.' When he went to England in 1889 he found his name a passport into whatever literary circles he cared to enter. He was conscious of growing powers, of larger plans.

"But his health had never been robust, and because he hated exercise, was fond of tobacco and pastry, and would not take enough sleep, it grew worse. For years he fought, with humorous gallantry, the inroads of dyspepsia. In 1893 he nearly died of typhoid fever. His heart gave way, and he died in his sleep during the night of November 4, 1895. He may have felt death coming, for he had said, a few days before: 'This is the dying time of year.'"

"He had grown gentler and more like the children's Eugene Field.

"The uncouth, dancing spirit of the woods was less with him toward the last. His final mood was that in which he wrote, by way of preface: 'Go forth, little lyrics, and sing to the hearts of men. This beautiful world is full of song and thy voices may not be heard at all—but sing on, children of ours; sing to the hearts of men, and thy song shall at least swell the universal harmony that bespeaketh God's love and the sweetness of humanity.'"

No Keys Are Needed There

An American traveler, putting up at the leading hotel in Auckland, New Zealand, found he had no key to his room and asked the clerk to give him one, says Capper's Weekly. That dignitary, with a pained look informed him, "We never lock doors here; nothing has been stolen from a New Zealand hotel, so far as I know, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant." The New Zealanders live

on an island about the size of the state of Oregon, in the Pacific ocean. There are something more than a million New Zealanders. They have been well isolated from the rest of the world and are a closely knit people.

Poet's Apprenticeship

Have you ever considered how different the apprenticeship of the poet to his art is from that of the musician and the painter? The young violinist or composer, once he has felt the urge

of the muse, consigns himself to some renowned conservatory where a great man takes him under his wing and teaches him his art. The young painter feels the call of Paris or Italy, and sets up his easel in the Louvre, in the eyes of a master. But the poet has no person to go to and learn his art from. He must quarry alone, shaping his verses alone, with only the works of great dead poets to guide him. Hard and bitter work and impossible unless the poetic gift is strong.—Marquette Journal.