



1—Miss Samantha Plummer, first lieutenant, Army Nurse corps, who is sixty-nine years of age and the oldest nurse in the United States army. 2—The noontime line at the customs house in New York, shown above, proved that women were, as usual, doing a lot of the paying. 3—Hugh Gibson, United States minister to Switzerland, and Alanson B. Houghton, United States ambassador to England, who arrived in New York to confer with President Coolidge on the coming arms parity.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Germany's Election to the League of Nations Is Postponed.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

THE League of Nations assembly on March 17 voted to adjourn the question of Germany's election to the league until the September session. The vote came after announcement by Afraño Mello Franco, Brazilian representative, that the decision of his country not to vote a permanent council seat for Germany unless Brazil was given one at the same time, was irrevocable. Then Sir Austen Chamberlain gave notice that it would be impossible for him to propose the admission of Germany into the league at this time. He concluded a long speech by expressing the conviction that the September assembly would see "that great nation, Germany, assume her rightful place within the League of Nations."

As a result of this action there is profound disappointment among well-wishers for the League of Nations throughout Europe over the breakdown of the session of the league called to elect Germany to membership. In some countries the hope of an agreement at Geneva tending toward general peace and security is regarded as indefinitely deferred, and fears are expressed that there will arise political recriminations in their domestic politics which may add to the difficulties.

Such recriminations already have been strongly manifested in England, where the anti-government press is making every effort to bring about the political downfall of Sir Austen Chamberlain, the foreign secretary, who, with Premier Briand of France, is declared to be the author of the Geneva collapse. Chamberlain's mission will be discussed next week in the house of commons, and a vote of censure may be moved against him. In such a case the present indications are that he would be saved by the big conservative majority. There are some reports, apparently based on speculation, that he will forestall an attack by resigning.

It remains to be seen whether Premier Briand can inject his optimism regarding the future of the league into his countrymen. Dispatches from France reflect the disappointment over the failure at Geneva as are expressed elsewhere. Briand must resume his difficult task of restoring the financial situation of his country to normal. With the failure of the league to elect Germany to membership, his "security" ambition failed of accomplishment, as the Locarno pact cannot be made effective until Germany is a league member.

Chancellor Luther and Foreign Minister Stresemann of Germany must face parliamentary fire, particularly on the part of the Communists and Nationalists, who will endeavor to unseat them.

THE Prince of Wales and Stanley Baldwin, the prime minister, figured in a "bombing" scare on St. Patrick's day which still is a source of mystery. While the prince was attending the St. Patrick's day banquet of the Irish club in London someone in a passing taxi threw into the entrance of the restaurant where the dinner was held a cardboard box from which acetylene fumes were escaping. An examination showed the contents included among other things moistened calcium carbide and a piece of tarred rope. No damage was done.

A similar "bomb" which blazed fiercely and emitted clouds of smoke was flung from the gallery of the Hotel Cecil where Mr. Baldwin was attending a St. Patrick's day banquet. It fell on the table not far from Mr. Baldwin, rolled on the floor, and set fire to the carpet. Consternation was caused among the guests. A woman at a table near Mr. Baldwin fainted and was carried out. The prime minister, however, remained calm and the fireworks and burning carpet were soon extinguished.

There was nothing to show whether the missiles were mischievous pranks,

or the manifestation of anger by persons with grievances or a political protest of some Irish irreconcilables against their countrymen's hobnobbing with British royalty and British ministers.

SENATOR SMITH BROOKHART (Rep., Iowa) will lose his seat in the upper house in favor of his Democratic opponent, Daniel F. Steck, if the senate elections committee upholds the report submitted by a subcommittee which holds that Steck was elected by a majority of 1,420 votes. The subcommittee report was presented by Senator Caraway (Dem., Ark.). It was unanimous, the other members being Senator Ernst (Rep., Ky.), who is chairman of the full elections committee and the subcommittee; Senator Watson (Rep., Ind.), and Senator George (Dem., Ga.).

In holding that Steck is entitled to the seat the subcommittee took the position that the intent of the voters in the November, 1924, election should be recognized. Iowa election authorities threw out hundreds of ballots which were marked by arrows which were designed to make it clear that the voters desired to vote for President Coolidge and at the same time vote for the Democratic senatorial nominee. Arrows of this sort had appeared in newspaper ballots, and many voters, not being aware that such action might invalidate their votes, copied the marked ballots, arrows and all.

Senator Brookhart is one of the four members of the La Follette group read out of the party by action of the Republican senate caucus. If he is unseated he will be free to enter the primaries as a candidate against Senator Cummins (Rep., Iowa) and it is regarded as certain that he will make the race.

THE United States and other powers delivered an ultimatum to Chinese factions demanding that blockade of the port of Tientsin be ended and all impediments to harbor and river traffic be removed. The ultimatum, signed by signatories of the protocol of 1901, was handed to the commanders of the forts at Taku and Chinese vessels outside of Tientsin. The United States, Great Britain, Japan and Italy have a dozen or more naval craft in these waters. The protocol of 1901 made stipulation concerning the disarmament of forts at the mouth of the Pei river, on which Tientsin is located, and also guaranteed an open way to the sea.

The blockade has been preventing access to Peking from the sea and recently resulted in Chinese troops firing upon two Japanese destroyers.

EVIDENCE that the law has not yet caught up with the radio is shown by a peculiar case of "radio slander" that has occurred in Chicago. State's Attorney Robert E. Crowe was sitting at home the other night, listening to a radio program broadcast from a downtown cabaret. He was startled to hear the station's announcer tell the world that Mr. Crowe and some of his friends at that moment were seated at a conspicuous table at the cabaret, enjoying the entertainment.

Mr. Crowe ordered the arrest of the announcer, who was held in jail for twelve hours before he was formally charged with disorderly conduct. Mr. Crowe's assistants spent much of the intervening time trying to find some more serious charge to place against the prisoner, but there were none. The law has not yet caught up with radio. Mr. Crowe can sue the announcer for damages, but presumably cannot indict him. If, instead of telling thousands of listeners that Mr. Crowe was having a night out, the announcer had published a half-truth to the same effect, he could have been charged with the crime of libel. The law makes that distinction between the spoken and the printed word. To defame a man by word of mouth is slander and no crime; to defame him by means of the printed word may be criminal libel.

Prosecution has been set for April 24 and the decision of the court may set an important precedent in bringing the laws of slander and libel up to date in this radio age.

ANOTHER important event in the radio world was the passage in the house of representatives by a vote of 218 to 124 of the White bill designed to create a federal radio com-

mission of five members to co-operate with Secretary Hoover in keeping order in the air, where broadcasting and other forms of wireless in the past have operated in some instances with great confusion. The bill provides for the issuance of station and operators' licenses by the secretary of commerce. Opposition to it centered about the contents of some members that no machinery was provided that would insure against radio monopoly and that it gave the secretary too much power.

Only one major amendment was added to the committee draft of the bill. This change, proposed by Representative Davis (Dem., Tenn.), struck out a provision to give the Commerce department the power to remit fines imposed for infraction of radio regulations. The five members of the radio commission would be appointed from five zones to be established. Operators who were refused licenses would have the right to appeal to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. It was stipulated that the President should have power to close any station during war "or other emergency."

UNDER a suspension of the rules, hotly contested by a minority group, the house of representatives passed the Porter bill, authorizing the appropriation of \$10,000,000 for the purchase or construction of adequate embassy and consular buildings in foreign capitals.

Under the terms of the bill, which was approved by the President, the budget bureau and the State department, expenditure of the money will be limited to \$2,000,000 a year for five years, under the direction of a building commission, which will include three members of the house and representatives of the State department. The bill is designed to permit the concentration in one building of all government activities in a particular foreign capital.

MANUFACTURERS in the Middle West were rallying for a final fight against passage of the Gooding bill, pending in congress. If enacted, the bill would have the practical effect of preventing permanently the interstate commerce commission from rescinding its ruling against establishment of cheaper rail rates on certain commodities from Middle West points to Pacific coast cities.

Mid-West shippers take the position that without the cheaper "long haul" rates they cannot hope to compete with their rivals on the Atlantic seaboard on account of low rate water transportation via the Panama canal. Manufacturers say important industries are likely to desert Chicago for more favorable locations adjacent to water routes. Refusal of the commission to grant the request of industrial leaders of this section and of the transcontinental railroads, that the through rates be lowered, spurred to a greater activity opponents of the Gooding bill. Many believe the commission's ruling may weaken opposition to the bill in congress.

SECOND LIEUT. JOHN S. THOMPSON of the United States army was hanged for the murder of his seventeen-year-old fiancée, whom he said he could not live without or marry because of his insufficient salary. He was the first American officer to be executed in peace time.

Thompson killed Miss Audrey Burleigh at Manila in the early morning of April 5, 1925. She was the stepdaughter of Capt. Hamilton P. Calmes, medical corps, and they were engaged to be married.

THE annual circus season this year will lack one of its greatest thrills for the children, according to word coming from headquarters of the big circuses at Peru, Ind.

The circus parade, it has been decided by showmen there, is to be abandoned. The high-priced performers, especially the Europeans, will not parade. The big circuses now visit only the larger cities, it is explained, and noonday traffic problems and the growing distance of the circus lot from the railroad make the parade physically impossible.

Ten years ago there were 20 circuses with trains of ten or more railroad cars. Now there are only a dozen, but these have expanded until the largest circuses in the country travel with 1,500 persons, and the smaller ones carry about 600.



THE date of Easter is fixed by the occurrence of the Passover. But if there had been no Passover what more suitable time could have been selected for commemorating the Resurrection than the season when nature, apparently dead, comes to life again? "If a man die shall he live again?" has been the plaintive interrogation of mankind from the earliest times. It expresses the universal hope—with the universal doubt. The doubt is resolved by the Resurrection: He shall live again. If the date for the recurrent celebration were to be arbitrarily selected, what date could have been fitter than that of the growing of the grass, the foliage draping the trees, the bloom-

ing of flowers and the singing of birds? It is an inspiring faith, that man shall live again. It is the antidote for the pessimism—only occasionally rising as high as stoicism—in the ancient world. It is intimately associated with all that is best in human life. Mr. Raymond Fosdick remarked the other day that the feet of those who carried Tut-Ankh-Amen to the grave are waiting at the door to carry out our civilization. This sounds like philosophy, but we suspect it is not. Our civilization is permeated with Christian ideals and ethics, a preservative, an antiseptic unknown to the civilizations that concern only the historian and the arch-

eologist. It contains the vitalizing element of democracy, which was unknown even in the Greek states and the Roman republic. And it possesses a command of natural forces which was not dreamed of 100 years ago. There is nothing in the pages of history in any way tending to oppose the belief that our civilization is permanent. "Ye are the salt of the earth," said the Founder of Christianity to those whom he had imbued with His spirit. Salt prevents decay. Other civilizations have decayed, but it may be that ours will not. And if it does not it will be due to all that is symbolized and reverently commemorated by Easter.

Moravian Easter Eggs Have Real Artistic Worth

Most Intricate Designs Are Painted With Patience and Skill.

It would seem, on first thought, that Easter eggs are a purely small boy or girl interest. Yet groups of grown-ups that gather around cases of Moravian Easter eggs exhibited each spring in the children's museum of the Cleveland Museum of Art attest the fact that the most childlike thing, if it be well done, does not lose its attraction. Some of the visitors are interested in the gay colors, and the beautifully intricate designs; some are especially curious about the process of decoration; others question regarding the origin of this particular application of folk craft, and the customs and legends surrounding it.

In each Moravian, Polish and Bohemian village, in fact throughout all of eastern Europe, there is an old woman who colors the eggs for a number of families. In Rumania, more generally, each housewife still prides herself on the preparation of eggs for her own household. The designs on the eggs in the children's museum collection are very ancient. Their origin is found in leaf petals, flower outlines, bird feathers, the coil of the small shell, all long since conventionalized into stars, scrolls and other figures. There are also innumerable geometric patterns. The colors are simple and bright, made in the beginning from dyes prepared by the peasants themselves from herbs, gail and vegetable sources. Blue, yellow and red are the principal hues, though black is used with distinctive effect.

The Color Process. The method of putting the color on to the egg is quite complicated. It is somewhat like the process of batik. The old peasant woman first of all washes the eggs in sour milk and warms them by the fire where she has put some wax to melt. Using an instrument like a wooden pencil, she washes the egg with a red and white pattern. If the eggs are merely to be dyed red, they are left some time in the dye, and then put in boiling water, which takes off the wax, and leaves the white background of the egg shell in its place, so that we now have a red egg with a white pattern. If another color is to be used, the wax is left on after the egg comes out of the first dye and additional wax is put on over the red, to hold whatever pattern is to appear in red; then the egg is laid in the new dye, black for instance. When the black has thoroughly overlaid the egg, boiling water takes off all the wax and we have a black egg with a red and white pattern." By postponing the use of the boiling water and drawing more patterns in wax, the number of colors may be increased.

An Easter Legend. There is a quaint and curiously touching legend in these eastern countries that explains the decoration of eggs at Easter. It has the same simple directness as the patterns on the egg themselves. The story is told that while Jesus was being tortured on the cross, Mary went through the crowd of persecutors trying to bribe them with a basket of eggs. Being unsuccessful, in her despair, she placed the eggs at the foot of the cross where they were stained with blood from the wounds of Jesus. When he saw this, according to the old story, he said to his apostles who were standing near:

"From this day forth, in memory of my crucifixion, ye shall stain eggs red and ring streaked, as I myself have today."

After the Nazarene's resurrection, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was the first to prepare the red eggs and Easter buns, and to every one she met, she said: "He is risen; joy be with you; He is risen," and to each she gave an egg and a bun. Since then those who celebrate Easter have always done this.

How thoroughly peasant is the legend! Only a simple people close to the soil, with whom the necessities of life press close upon the heels of death, could have imagined buns and colored eggs as having part in the great tragedy. It gives the reader a new sense of values, quite sane, perhaps as much stressed conceptions of darkness and mystery. Little baskets of woven grasses, each holding an egg in place, add much to the charm of the museum exhibit.

K. G.

EGG SEEMED TYPICAL OF RENASCENT LIFE

On That Account It Made Appeal to All Faiths.

Because the Puritans adored this festival, as they did all rituals of the older Christian church, Easter did not become a popular season of rejoicing and ceremony in this country until after the Civil war. But now our observances begin to approach those of the Old world in elaborateness and Easter eggs have been given an almost official recognition by the traditional egg rolling on the White House grounds every Easter Monday.

When the curious person desires to satisfy his curiosity as to how the egg became connected with observance of Resurrection day and why, he soon enters conflicting testimony.

A spring festival was celebrated by the pagans long before Christianity.



Pagan Easter Ceremony.

The Jews held their feast of the Passover at this season. The name Easter is derived from that of a Nordic goddess. Most of the early converts to Christianity were Jews and their celebrations took on a double significance. Our present customs doubtless preserve elements from all these various sources.

Because Easter originally celebrated the rebirth of nature after the cold sterility of winter, the egg furnished a splendid symbol of renaissance life. Scholars have traced the custom of giving eggs back to the times of the Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks, Romans and others. To all of these peoples the egg was an obvious symbol of life.

Indications have also been found that the custom of dyeing and staining eggs at this season is very ancient. Among the Persians, the egg was the emblem of the mundane egg, the earth, for which Ormuzd, the god of light, and Ahriman, the god of darkness, were contending.

Ceremonies Odd and Impressive in Latin Lands

Easter Observances That Seem Quaint to Us—Pilgrims Gather at Jerusalem.

Many quaint ceremonies grew up through the centuries in connection with Easter. Some of the oddest are those prevailing in the Latin countries, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, and in fact all the Latin-American nations. Among these peoples, Judas the betrayer plays an important part, appealing strongly to their vivid imaginations. Harry L. Rogers writes, in Grit. Holy Saturday is especially devoted to Judas, and on this occasion he is flogged, burned, hanged, and sometimes even blown up, in effigy. Booths are erected in many of these Latin-American towns, and figures of Judas, distorted and grotesque, are sold by the thousands. Ropes are then strung across the streets, or from house to house, from which the effigies are suspended, sometimes loaded with gunpowder. At a signal, the effigies are lighted, and the downfall of the betrayer is accomplished with appropriate denunciations.

Similarly, effigies of the Christ, Mary Magdalene, and the Virgin Mary play an important part in the celebrations in these countries, though unlike the figures of Judas, they are treated with profound reverence and respect, often being paraded through the streets by priests and lighted by hundreds of candles.

The ceremonies at Easter time in Rome, seat of the Holy Catholic church, are particularly elaborate and impressive. But it is in Palestine, among the holy places, that the most impressive celebration of Easter occurs. From every part of the world, thousands of pilgrims assemble at the holy sepulchre. On Monday of holy week, the pilgrimage to the River Jordan takes place, and some 30,000 of the faithful, of every nationality, and almost every creed, splash in the consecrated waters at Jordan ford, dipping themselves thrice in honor of the Trinity, and filling bottles, pans and other receptacles with the miraculous waters.

Often ragged and footsore, the pilgrims visit the holy places—the Chapel of the Ascension, where believers may see the rock with the footprint of Jesus; the Garden of Gethsemane; the Grotto of Agony, where Judas kissed the Lord. Up the Via Dolorosa, with its fourteen stations each commemorating some act of Christ, the pilgrims crowd to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where they jostle each other to kiss the undulation in the stone wall made by the shoulder of Jesus as he fell from the cross. Afterward this vast army of Armenians, Russians, Poles, Turks, Jews, Syrians, Europeans, and Americans, too, sometimes elbow each other in their eagerness to purchase the holy relics vended by fakirs in the market places.—Grit.

The Joy of Easter

In the gray of the early morning, while yet the city slept, And only the old bell-ringer his watch in the church-tower kept. On a sudden the chimes of Easter fell like a silver rain, And the rills of mellow music laved weary heart and brain. "Awake, for the Lord is risen!" they sang. "The night is o'er. From the graves of sin or sorrow arise, rejoice, adore!" —Grit.