

1—Loading the steamship Chantier for the Byrd polar expedition, which sailed from New York for Spitzbergen. 2—Members of senate judiciary subcommittee listening to testimony in favor of modification of the Volstead act, seated, and, standing, Representative Hill and Senators Edge, Bruce and Edwards, leaders of the wets. 3—Castle of Trevano on Lake Lugano, which, it is said, the ex-kaiser of Germany wishes to buy from Louis Lombard of New York.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Mussolini Shot in Nose by Eccentric English Woman; Wets Arraign Dry Act.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ANOTHER piece of good luck for Benito Mussolini, the redoubtable premier and dictator of Italy! Having just addressed the international congress of surgeons in the capitol of Rome, he was about to step into his automobile when Violet Albina Gibson, member of an eccentric family of Irish nobility, fired a small pistol at him. The bullet struck him in the nose, piercing both nostrils, but the wound was so trifling that Mussolini resumed his office work after it was dressed, and next day began his journey to Tripoli with the battle fleet. The assassin, who is an elderly woman, was rescued from the angry people by the police. Her motive has not been revealed. She is the sister of Baron Ashbourne and her relatives say she is half mad.

The immediate result of the attack was a great outbreak of enthusiasm for Mussolini by the Fascisti in Rome and other cities. The offices of several opposition newspapers were sacked, despite the premier's order that there be no acts of vengeance. The "duce" is now even more of a national hero than before, if that is possible. His departure for Tripoli was attended with great pomp. The fleet accompanying him was made up of a division of battleships, destroyers and submarines, together with large numbers of airplanes and seaplanes. Aboard the flagship Conte di Cavour he received the new directorate of the Fascisti and gave out the details of the party program for the change of Italy from a parliamentary to a syndicalist state. In his address he declared the Fascisti had won their battle at home but that there was now the graver battle with foreign countries. It was natural that all countries upholding the principle of fraternity without real brotherhood of equality, without peace or liberty, and without independence would coalesce against Italy. The premier said he foresaw an attempt economically to isolate Italy, but he shouted, "We will win, because we have 3,000,000 youths ready."

Not a day passes without further evidence of the implacable determination of the Fascisti to have their own way. Tuesday they engaged in a pitched battle with their opponents in the province of Palermo, Sicily, and drove them into the mountains. In Naples the Jewish lawyer for the widow of Giacomo Matteotti, Sig Modigliani, was seriously wounded by a Fascist mob. Matteotti was the Socialist deputy who was kidnapped and murdered on June 10, 1924, by a Fascist group. John Amendola, the last important leader of the opposition to Mussolini, died in Cannes as the result of a beating he received from a Fascist mob in Italy several months ago.

Unconfirmed stories sent over by foreign correspondents tell of an attack by Fascisti in Venice on American sailors from the four destroyers that were there. This was due to resentment against the holding up of the Italian debt settlement in the senate. The navy officials in Washington said they had not heard of the event, but the destroyers left Venice suddenly.

EVERY ONE in the country, be he wet or dry, is following with interest the senate committee hearings on the bills for amendment or repeal of the Volstead act. Last week was given over to the wets, and they made the most of their opportunity, under the leadership of Senators Bruce and Edge and with the assistance of counsel for various wet organizations. General Andrews, chief prohibition enforcement official of the government, was the first witness. He told at length of the problems encountered by his forces and of their plans for more efficient work; of the amazing effrontery of the bootleggers and al-

cohol redistillers and the crookedness of many druggists and physicians. He said that captures made by his agents show that 98 per cent of the whiskey Americans are drinking today is fixed, doped, poisoned, split, and otherwise adulterated.

At one point in his testimony General Andrews blamed "politics, the churches, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon league" for the presence in the federal prohibition enforcement organization of men either corrupt or stupid and inefficient. He was not, of course, a friendly witness for the wets, and declared that with more legislation and additional forces he believed he could finally control the situation.

United States District Attorney Buckner of New York followed with disclosures of the enormous quantities of industrial alcohol, much of it poisonous, diverted to the bootleggers and to the stomachs of the people. He estimated the total to be 60,000,000 gallons a year. Other parts of his testimony may be summarized thus:

Twelve hundred drug stores in New York city are selling 480,000 gallons of whiskey a year, and that is precisely twice as much as could legally be sold if all the prescription blanks which the law allows the 5,100 physicians in that area were legitimately used.

Analysis of 50,000 samples of bootleg whiskey captured by federal agents in New York city in two years showed the captures not to be whisky at all, but redistilled denatured alcohol with traces of the poisonous denaturing fluid still in it.

So large and so flagrant is the diversion of industrial alcohol from legitimate channels that now it is being bootlegged into Canada, where the tax on alcohol is very high.

Thirteen months ago, when Buckner took office as United States district attorney for the Southern district of New York, he found the fifth floor of the federal building in New York city a seething mob of bartenders, waiters, liquor peddlers, petty bootleggers, fixers, and bond sharks openly trafficking with justice. They tried to bribe the jurymen even in the building.

Alfred J. Talley, former judge of the court of general sessions, New York city, swore that his court experience convinces him that prohibition is "the greatest single menace confronting the United States and the greatest cause of lawlessness among the most lawless people in the world," and that "for every saloon abolished three speakeasies have sprung up."

Among the many other witnesses heard were Hudson Maxim, Congressman Vane of Pennsylvania, Dr. William C. Woodward of Chicago, representing the American Medical Association and Anton J. Cernak, speaking for a delegation of Chicagoans.

CORN-BELT leaders in Washington announce that the cotton growers of the South will support the surplus control bill designed to raise the prices of farm products on the domestic market above the export market price, and believe they will overcome the opposition of the administration to the measure. Secretary of Agriculture Jardine has been drafting a bill which makes some important concessions to the demands of the corn growers. His measure will provide for the creation of a farm board to deal with the surplus problem, as proposed by the farm organizations, but will omit any provision for collecting equalization fees from the producers. The corn belt would finance the price-fixing operations from a \$250,000,000 revolving fund advanced by the government. Secretary Jardine will not provide for a revolving fund, but is working out a plan for a loan either by the government or private capital for financing operations in the orderly marketing of surplus products.

ACCORDING to a report of the Department of Agriculture, the farm population of the United States decreased nearly half a million during 1925. It estimates the number of persons living on farms January 1, 1925, to have been 30,655,000, compared with 31,134,000 January 1, 1925. The estimated net movement away from farms last year amounted to 901,000 persons, but there was an estimated excess of farm births over farm

deaths amounting to 422,000, which reduced the loss due to cityward movement to 479,000. The estimated decrease in farm population in 1924 was 182,000.

ARGUMENTS in the Brookhart-Steck contest occupied considerable time in the senate last week and it did not appear that an early decision was likely. There was a report that President Coolidge had intimated to Senator Butler, chairman of the Republican national committee, that in his opinion the majority report of the elections committee, which recommended the seating of Steck, Democrat, should be approved. If this is done it is a certainty that Brookhart will oppose Senator Cummins for the nomination in the next Republican primaries. That might result in the election of a Democrat, and the prospect is rather worrying the Republicans.

PROSPECTS are good for settlement of the Tacna-Arica dispute between Peru and Chile in accordance with a plan submitted to the representatives of the two republics by Secretary of State Kellogg. The nature of the proposals was not made public except that they would be substituted for the plebiscite. Ambassadors Cruza of Chile and Velardi of Peru both expressed the hope that the new negotiations would succeed.

RAUL PERET, finance minister of France, won a big victory when the parliament adopted his measures after a week's consideration. Figures issued Tuesday showed that France's budget was balanced for the first time since the beginning of the World war, without including of the country's 52 per cent of the reparations paid by Germany under the Dawes plan.

NEGOTIATIONS for peace in Morocco on the basis of autonomy for the Rifians were proceeding nicely in Paris when a semi-official announcement from Madrid virtually ended them. This was to the effect that Spain would not accept the terms offered by Abd-el-Krim. Consequently a strong French offensive in the near future is predicted unless Krim is willing to consider new terms offered by France and Spain.

In Syria the French are still fighting the Druses, and a recent dispatch says Prince Hamad Atrash, son of Sultan el Atrash, leader of the tribesmen, was killed in battle at Maarba.

FOUR hundred men and women, fugitives from Russia, met in Paris in the first Pan-Russian congress of emigrants and exiles and laid plans for an early attempt to win back their country from the Bolsheviks. Prof. Peter Strouve was elected president of the congress and roused intense enthusiasm when he called on Grand Duke Nicholas, uncle of the late czar, to become grand chieftain of national Russia, assume command of the army and liberate the country from communist oppression. How all this might be accomplished was considered in secret sessions of the conference.

RELIGIOUS warfare between the Moslems and Hindus in India, always smoldering, has broken out in Calcutta and other cities and the British authorities are having a hard time trying to restore order. Mosques and temples are destroyed and many persons are being killed or wounded in the wild street fighting.

Another cause of anxiety to the British in India is the demand of the nazim of Hyderabad that he be given Berar, which was ceded to the English 150 years ago. The nazim has armed forces and might lead a revolt of other dissatisfied Indian princes. British troops have been concentrated in Secunderabad to keep the nazim quiet.

IRPLANES from the army of Marshal Chang have been bombing Peking, despite the protests of the foreign diplomats. The real battle for the possession of the city seems to have begun. It is reported there that a coalition has been formed between the forces of Feng Yu-shiang, Wu Peifu and the governors of Shansi and Kiangsi provinces for the destruction of the Chih and Shantung armies that are besieging the capital.

"Lo, the Poor Indian!"



"AN OSAGE SCALP DANCE" Painting by Stanley, 1845

Romance of the Osages and Oil.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

WHEN ALEXANDER POPE, some two hundred years ago, wrote the lines "Lo, the poor Indian! whose untutored mind sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind"; he little realized that he was giving to the English language an expression which was to become a classic characterization of a whole race of men. For American sentimentality has made "Poor Lo" and "Indian" synonymous terms, seemingly unconscious of the ironical fact that it has been the American people—the white usurpers of the land occupied by the original Americans—who are principally responsible for the "poor" half of the expression.

So "Poor Lo" became a part of our currency of speech until the modern history of the Osage Indians seemingly proved the falsity of this as of many of our other "rubber-stamp" expressions. But recent developments down in the Osage country in Oklahoma, where oil wells have been pouring a golden stream of material wealth into the laps of these Indians, now suggest that perhaps the "Poor Lo" designation is not so inappropriate after all. For the Osages' millions have brought death to some of them and sorrow to the others in the realization that they have yet much to learn of the bitter lesson of the white man's greed.

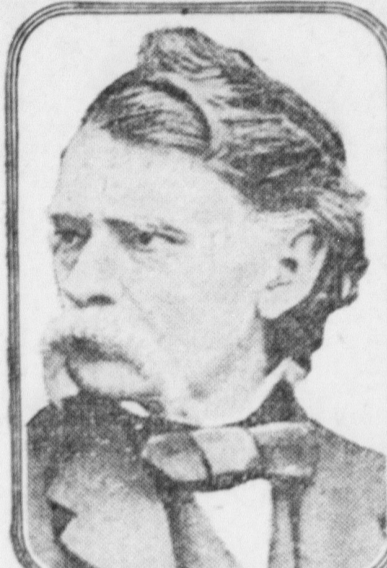
The "Osage murders," which have occupied so much space in the newspapers lately, have aptly been called "one of the blackest chapters in the history of the white man's dealings with the American Indian." They are the result of what appears to be the effort of a well-organized band of men to destroy with bullet, poison and bomb the heirs to some of the Osages' rich oil lands. This effort already has resulted in nearly a score of murders, and government officials who are investigating the case predict even more sensational disclosures as their case against the men already indicted for the crime develops.

In thus centering the attention of the nation upon this tribe of Indians, whose sudden rise to wealth within the last decade has kept them constantly in the limelight, these murders serve to recall some of the early history of the Osages which, in contrast to their later peaceful record, was one of much war and bloodshed.

The name Osage is a corruption by the French of Wazhazhe, their name for themselves. The Wazhazhe, or Osages, were the most important southern Siouan tribe of the western division, and their original home was along the Ohio river. But in the constant shifting of Indian population on account of tribal wars and the nomadic traits of the red men, they eventually crossed the Mississippi probably about 1500 A. D.

The first mention of the Osages in written history is in Father Marquette's map of 1673 which shows them located along the Osage river in Kansas and Missouri. In 1701 Iberville, another French explorer, found them living near the Arkansas river, and he numbers them at 1,200 to 1,500. In 1714 they were helping the French defeat the Foxe Indians at Detroit, and three years later the tribe received its first official visit from the French. Du Tisne, a French officer, visited a part of the tribe which was then living along the Osage river, and records the fact that this village had 100 cabins and 200 warriors.

All of the early French travelers comment upon the warlike qualities of the Osages who were the inveterate enemies of the great Illini confederacy and who were held in terror by the Caddoan tribes of the southwest. Although they were constantly



JOHN MIX STANLEY, (1814-1872)



at war with the Minois, at one time the warring tribes patched up a sort of truce, and when the Iroquois descended upon the Illinois from the east, the latter sought refuge for a time among their new-found friends, the Osages, across the great river.

The first Americans to come into contact with these people were Lewis and Clark. By this time the tribe seems to have been divided into two main groups, the Great Osage and the Little Osage. The American explorers state that in 1802 the Great Osage, under the leadership of a chief named Big Track, had migrated to the Arkansas river, and in 1804 they found this subdivision, numbering 500 warriors, in a village on the Osage river. The Little Osage, then only a half as numerous as the Great Osage, were occupying a village six miles distant, but a group, known only as the "Arkansas band," 600 warriors strong, was located on the Vermillion river, a branch of the Arkansas.

On November 10, 1808, the first treaty between the American government and the Osages was signed at Fort Clark, near Kansas City, Mo. In it the Indians ceded all of their lands except those comprising the present state of Oklahoma north of the Canadian and Arkansas rivers. But this treaty was only the beginning. Later cessions—at St. Louis, June 2, 1825, and at Canville, Kan., September 29, 1855—gradually cut down their holdings until of all the vast territory which the Osages once claimed, and to which they held a precarious title by force of arms, but little remained.

Although the relations of the Osages with the Americans from the beginning were more peaceful than those of many western tribes, these warlike people did not give up their lands completely. Evidently they were troublesome enough a century ago, for one of the provisions of the treaty made in 1825 was that the Osages were to refrain from molesting the trade with the Southwest, which was just then beginning and which was destined to make the historic Santa Fe trail, which ran through the Osage country, a great trade artery.

One of the finest of the canvases painted by the celebrated artist, John Mix Stanley is "An Osage Scalp Dance." The artist, who visited the Osages in the early forties, says of this painting: "On returning from the scene of strife, they celebrate their victories by a scalp-dance. This picture represents the scalp-dance of the Osages around a woman and her child; and a warrior in the act of striking her with his club, his chief springing forward and arresting the blow with his spear."

However, the United States never engaged in a general war with the Osages, and it is noteworthy that they were more often our allies in wars with other tribes than our enemies. It was a band of Osage scouts who guided General Custer to Black Kettle's camp of Cheyennes in Oklahoma in the winter of 1868, and took part in the much-discussed Battle of the Washita which greatly weakened the power of the hostiles.

The lands which the Osages now hold were given them when a reservation was established for them in Oklahoma by an act of congress on July 15, 1870. The land was hilly and regarded as almost worthless; so much so, in fact, that another tribe to whom it was first given, refused to live on it. So the Osages, who, by this time, seem to have lost their warlike qualities and who seemed unlikely to protest, were given this tract of approximately a million and a half acres. By an act of congress on June 28, 1906, this land was divided among the Osages, then numbering nearly 2,000 persons. At this time the tribe had to their credit in the United States treasury more than eight and a half millions of dollars in treaty money, yielding an annual income of nearly half a million dollars. They also drew about \$100,000 a year for pasturage leases, so that their total annual income per capita was approximately \$205. Even at this time, the Osages were known as the richest Indians in the United States.

When Oklahoma statehood was declared in 1907, the Osages continued to live a peaceful existence comparatively untouched by outside influences. Then along in 1912 and 1913 oil was discovered on their lands, and almost overnight the Osages became rich beyond their wildest dreams. Then, too, their troubles began. Unaccustomed to this great wealth, the Indians fell prey to all kinds of white tricksters. The culmination of their troubles was the series of mysterious murders which began in 1922 and which have recently been exposed. Apparently unable to get as much of the Osages' wealth—and the wealth of the Osages is constantly increasing; the last announcement was that the 2,227 heads in the tribe will pay \$2,400 each for the first quarter of 1923 instead of \$1,400 as was expected—by trickery as he desired, the white man has resorted to violence.

So although their wealth has brought the Osages considerable happiness, it has brought them sorrow, too, just as it did Jackson Barnett, the Creek Indian, whose philanthropic and matrimonial troubles were so prominent in the newspapers only a short time ago. But out of all their troubles may come a better day, not only for the Osages but for every Indian in the United States. The Osage case now seems likely to be a history-making one, for recent agitation in the press and in congress over the Indian question in general may soon result in some sweeping changes in the whole conduct of Indian affairs, and "Poor Lo" may soon gain the tardy justice which his friends believe he has so long been denied.

Mild Creatures' Vision

A hot controversy is being conducted between two men over in Canada. Bonnycastle Dale asserts that moose cannot see far, while the other faction, led by a man in northern Alberta, started the affair by stating they could see for four miles.

Moose possess very poor eyesight and persons have paddled up on them in midday. Their most effective sense of protection is their sense of smell—

and no animal possesses a keener one. This often has been a source of wonderment because their nostrils are most frequently literally filled with mud which seeps in when they are grubbing on the bottom of a muddy lake or stream, feeding.

Deer, like moose, are not noted for their eyesight, though they have a quicker and longer vision than the moose. Both also have sharp ears. (moose usually have their ears also filled with enough mud to grow the proverbial potatoes), but on sharp

eyesight they don't rank with wild ducks, hawks and many other denizens of the wilderness.—Detroit News.

Ancient Nursery Tale

The seven-league boots are introduced into the nursery tale, "Tom Thumb," which is from the French "Le Petit Poucet," by Charles Perrault, written about 1630. The story, however, is probably of Anglo-Saxon origin. There is in the Bodleian library, at Oxford, a ballad about Tom Thumb printed by John Wright in 1630.